

National Security Foreign Policy Intelligence Justice Immigration Military

No alien life discovered on Earth, Pentagon says, but search deepens

A new office within the Defense Department is evaluating recent reports of unexplained phenomena and is planning to look at accounts dating back decades

 By [Dan Lamothe](#)

December 16, 2022 at 7:27 p.m. EST



A video screenshot shows an unexplained aerial object observed by U.S. military personnel. (AP)

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
In May, lawmakers held the first congressional hearing on the subject in 50 years, [seeking to bring the issue out of the shadows](#), they said. That followed the release of a report last year by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence that scrutinized 144 cases of unidentified phenomena, and did not find evidence of extraterrestrial visits.

“Some UAP appeared to remain stationary in winds aloft, move against the wind, maneuver abruptly, or move at considerable speed, without discernible means of propulsion,” the report said. “In a small number of cases, military aircraft systems processed radio frequency (RF) energy associated with UAP sightings.”

Researchers involved with the report labeled the phenomena in five categories: man-made objects cluttering the air, moisture and other natural objects, man-made American aircraft, foreign-made aircraft, and a vague fifth option “other.”

Moultrie said another DNI report will be released by the end of the year.

Shane Harris contributed to this report.

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By [Dan Lamothe](#)

Dan Lamothe joined The Washington Post in 2014 to cover the U.S. military and the Pentagon. He has written about the Armed Forces for more than 14 years, traveling extensively, embedding with each service and covering combat in Afghanistan numerous times. [Twitter](#)

The research is likely to expand next year. Congress wrote a provision into the next defense policy bill, which is awaiting President Biden’s signature, that requires the Defense Department to complete a “historical record report” about detailing unidentified phenomena observed and documented by the United States. If approved by Biden, the National Defense Authorization Act will then trigger “quite a research project, if you will, into the archives,” Kirkpatrick said.

[U.S. unable to explain more than 140 unidentified flying objects, but new report finds no evidence of alien life]

Defense officials already are digging through old reports. Kirkpatrick, a physicist and career intelligence officer, said he will “adhere to the scientific method — and I will follow that data and science wherever it goes.” Some past reports, he acknowledged, may be highly classified and not yet known to him.

Moultrie said he has not seen anything in current documentation that includes “alien visitation, an alien crash, or anything like that.” But if something of “alien origin” emerges, he said, defense officials will analyze it and take “appropriate actions.” He did not elaborate.

Dec. 27, 2021
[S. 1605]

STATUS REPORT

PUBLIC LAW 117-81—DEC. 27, 2021

UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA

117th Congress

CONFIDENTIAL
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144 reports originated from USG sources with multiple sensors.

Most reports described UAP as objects of other military activity.

Is Congress searching for UFOs? Sort of.

3:14

On May 17, Congress held a hearing on UAPs (Unidentified Aerial Phenomena), better known as UFOs. Here’s why. (Video: Monica Rodman, Sarah Hashemi/The Washington Post)

In May, lawmakers held the first congressional hearing on the subject in

extent) still not readily available to other researchers, despite the ease with which material can now be shared online as searchable PDFs.

I have added a searchable PDF copy of [Dr Bullard's "The Airship File"](#) to my online archive, together with copies of [three subsequent supplements](#) by Dr Bullard ([helpfully provided to me by Jeff Knox](#)).

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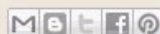
THE AIRSHIP FILE
Texts Concerning Phantom Airships
Gathered from Newspapers and Periodicals
Hundred Years Prior to Kenneth Anderson

Compiled by

Thomas E. Bullard
517 E. University St. #2
Bloomington, Indiana
47401 U.S.A.



at [December 14, 2022](#)



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The Pentagon's top intelligence official, Ronald Moultrie, told reporters during a news conference, the first to discuss the office and its ongoing work, that "At this time ... we have nothing" to affirm the existence of space aliens.

The proliferation of drones, including those operated by foreign adversaries and amateur hobbyists, account for many of the reports, officials said.

"Some of these things almost collide with planes," said Sean Kirkpatrick, the director of the new office, who spoke to the media alongside Moultrie on Friday. "We see that on a regular basis."

The U.S. government employs sophisticated sensors around the globe to collect data, and the office analyzes it for relevant information, they said, declining to elaborate.

[UFO hearing features historic testimony from Pentagon officials]

While most of the reports the Pentagon investigates are about aerial objects, defense officials are increasingly concerned about unusual activity below the surface of the ocean, in space and on land. For that reason, the Pentagon now uses the term unidentified anomalous phenomena, or UAP, rather than previous descriptions such as "unidentified flying object."

Moultrie said that, "Unidentified phenomena in all domains ... pose potential threats to personal security and operational security, and they deserve our urgent attention."

Unidentified "trans-medium" objects, he said, is a class of phenomena that would jump between domains, like from the air to the sea. None has been documented yet, Moultrie noted.

The research is likely to expand next year. Congress wrote a provision into the next defense policy bill, which is awaiting President Biden's signature, that requires the Defense Department to complete a "historical record report" about detailing unidentified phenomena

Isaac Koi - New Uploads

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Before Kenneth Arnold's (1947) sighting : Collection of material on "aerial mysteries of the 19th and early 20th centuries" : "The Airship File" by Dr Thomas Bullard

Dr Thomas Bullard has now kindly given me permission to upload his collection of material entitled "[The Airship File](#)". The title page indicates that this publication is "A collection of texts concerning phantom airships and other UFOs, gathered from newspapers and periodicals mostly during the hundred years prior to Kenneth Arnold's sighting".

This publication including a short introduction summarising research into "aerial mysteries of the 19th and early 20th centuries", with the bulk of the 407 pages of this publication being devoted to presenting the text of relevant articles from newspapers and magazines.

The short introduction gives Dr Bullard's view that "the old reports contained which were equally as remarkable as the similarities and thereby cast doubt on the ready identification of airships with modern UFOs" although he also notes the airships sightings "... resemble the modern UFO phenomenon too closely for us to deny a kinship of some kind".

Dr Bullard's introduction also called for "researchers all over the world to join in an effort to pool our already extensive findings". Those words, written in 1982, could equally well be written now (forty years later, in 2022). In the intervening decades there have been some efforts to pull together source materials on early "aerial mysteries" of the type requested by Dr Bullard (notably by the historical research group Magonia Exchange, an international archival project founded by researcher Chris Aubeck). However, the material that has been pulled together is (to a large extent) still not readily available to other researchers, despite the ease with which material can now be shared online as searchable PDFs.

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A new office at the Pentagon is scrutinizing hundreds of reports of unidentified objects in air, sea, space and beyond, senior U.S. defense officials said Friday, and while it has discovered no signs of alien life, the search is set to expand.

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The issue has taken on increasing seriousness as a bipartisan group of lawmakers presses the Defense Department to investigate instances of unidentified phenomena and disclose publicly what they learn. Established in July, the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office is evaluating recent reports and soon could evaluate accounts that date back decades, officials said.



Military video shows UAPs captured by the Navy in 2004 near San Diego. (Video: To The Stars Academy of Arts and Science)

The Pentagon's top intelligence official, Ronald Moultrie, told reporters during a news conference, the first to discuss the office and its ongoing work, that "At this time ... we have nothing" to affirm the existence of



da-video

Un nuovo ufficio del Pentagono creato per tenere traccia degli Ufo ha annunciato di aver avuto "centinaia di segnalazioni" ma al momento nessuna prova dell'esistenza di vita aliena. L'All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (Aaro), che si occupa dei rilevamenti non sono in cielo ma anche sott'acqua o nello spazio, è stato istituito dopo che a giugno del 2021 il direttore dell'intelligence nazionale Usa aveva riferito che tra il 2004 e il 2021 c'erano oltre "144 incontri" 80 dei quali catturati da più sensori.

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USA

UFO

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più grande del mondo



BALLI E CANTI PER STRADA

SNACK

00:48



Iran, festa per la liberazione di una 17enne che rischiava la pena capitale



A "LE IENE"

SNACK

01:40



Bianca Atzei e la gravidanza: "Ho cercato di godermi ogni istante"



PAURA AL PARCO DIVERTIMENTI

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00:33



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17 DICEMBRE 2022 00:46

Pentagono: ricevute centinaia di segnalazioni di Ufo



da-video

Un nuovo ufficio del Pentagono creato per tenere traccia degli Ufo ha annunciato di aver avuto "centinaia di segnalazioni" ma al momento nessuna prova dell'esistenza di vita aliena. L'All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (Aaro), che si occupa dei rilevamenti non sono in cielo ma anche sott'acqua o nello spazio, è

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C'ERANO 1.500 PESCI Berlino, esplode l'acquario cilindrico più grande del mondo



BALLI E CANTI PER STRADA Iran, festa per la liberazione di una 17enne che rischiava la pena capitale



A "LE IENE" Bianca Atzei e la gravidanza: "Ho

VENERDÌ 16 DICEMBRE 2022 22.54.49

Usa: Pentagono, ricevute centinaia di segnalazioni di Ufo

Usa: Pentagono, ricevute centinaia di segnalazioni di **Ufo** Washington (Usa), 16 dic.

(LaPresse/AP) - Il nuovo ufficio creato dal Pentagono per indagare sulle notizie riguardanti gli oggetti volanti non identificati ha ricevuto "diverse centinaia" di nuove segnalazioni, ma finora nessuna prova dell'esistenza di vita aliena. Lo ha riferito il direttore dell'ufficio, denominato All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (Aaro), Sean Kirkpatrick. L'Aaro è stato creato a luglio ed è responsabile non solo delle indagini sugli oggetti non identificati nel cielo, ma anche sott'acqua e nello spazio, o potenzialmente su qualsiasi oggetto in grado di muoversi da un elemento all'altro. La decisione di istituire la nuova unità è nata dopo l'attenzione suscitata dalle segnalazioni riferite dai piloti militari e dopo che la National Intelligence a giugno dello scorso anno aveva riferito che tra il 2004 e il 2021 erano stati accertati 144 'incontri', di cui 80 catturati con sensori multipli. Un nuovo rapporto del direttore della National Intelligence è atteso entro la fine dell'anno. EST NG01 lic/acg 162254 DIC 22



Usa, il Pentagono ha ricevuto "centinaia di segnalazioni di Ufo"



"Ma nessuna prova di vita aliena finora". Entro la fine dell'anno è previsto un rapporto aggiornato della National Intelligence

17 DICEMBRE 2022 AGGIORNATO ALLE 03:21

1 MINUTI DI LETTURA



Un nuovo ufficio del Pentagono creato per tenere traccia degli Ufo, sigla che sta per 'oggetti volanti non identificati', ha annunciato di aver avuto "centinaia di segnalazioni" ma al momento nessuna prova dell'esistenza di vita aliena.

L'All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (Aaro), che si occupa dei rilevamenti non sono in cielo ma anche sott'acqua o nello spazio, è stato istituito dopo che a giugno del 2021 il direttore dell'intelligence nazionale Usa aveva riferito che tra il 2004 e il 2021 c'erano oltre "144 incontri" 80 dei quali catturati da più sensori. Da allora, "abbiamo ricevuto molte altre segnalazioni", ha dichiarato il direttore dell'ufficio Sean Kirkpatrick. Entro la fine dell'anno è previsto un rapporto aggiornato della National Intelligence.

Newsletter



SABATO 17 DICEMBRE 2022 00.11.34

Usa: Pentagono ha ricevuto centinaia di segnalazioni di Ufo

(ANSA) - WASHINGTON, 16 DIC - Un nuovo ufficio del Pentagono creato per tenere traccia degli **Ufo**, sigla che sta per 'oggetti volanti non identificati', ha annunciato di aver avuto "centinaia di segnalazioni" ma al momento nessuna prova dell'esistenza di vita aliena. Lo riporta l'Associated Press. L'All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (Aaro), che si occupa dei rilevamenti non solo in cielo ma anche sott'acqua o nello spazio, è stato istituito dopo che a giugno del 2021 il direttore dell'intelligence nazionale Usa aveva riferito che tra il 2004 e il 2021 c'erano oltre "144 incontri" 80 dei quali catturati da più sensori. Da allora, "abbiamo ricevuto molte altre segnalazioni", ha dichiarato il direttore dell'ufficio Sean Kirkpatrick. Entro la fine dell'anno è previsto un rapporto aggiornato della National Intelligence. (ANSA). GUE 2022-12-17 00:11 S0B QBXB EST

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Usa, il Pentagono ha ricevuto “centinaia di segnalazioni di Ufo”

Entro fine anno è previsto un rapporto aggiornato della National Intelligence. Ma finora nessuna prova di vita aliena

17 Dicembre 2022 alle 09:03 | 1 minuti di lettura



Un nuovo ufficio del Pentagono creato per tenere traccia degli Ufo, sigla che sta per «oggetti volanti non identificati», ha annunciato di aver avuto «centinaia di segnalazioni» ma al momento «nessuna prova dell’esistenza di vita aliena» L’All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (Aaro), che si occupa dei rilevamenti non sono in cielo ma anche sott’acqua o nello spazio, è stato istituito dopo che a giugno del 2021 il direttore dell’intelligence nazionale Usa aveva riferito che tra il 2004 e il 2021 c’erano oltre «144 incontri» 80 dei quali catturati da più sensori. Da allora, «abbiamo ricevuto molte altre segnalazioni», ha dichiarato il direttore dell’ufficio Sean Kirkpatrick. Entro la fine dell’anno è previsto un rapporto aggiornato della National Intelligence.

adv

A NATALE
SALVA UN RABBITO

unicef

Ulteriori info

scrittore e giornalista italiano. Era nato a Modena il 15 dicembre 1922, morì a Milano il 23 marzo 1984

● Le sue opere sono state tradotte in 60 Paesi ed è stato uno degli scrittori italiani più popolari degli anni Settanta

● Nella foto la copertina di uno dei suoi libri di maggior successo, «Non è terrestre», che vinse il premio Bancarella

● Legatissimo a Bolzano, domani la sua città d'adozione gli dedica un convegno per approfondire la sua figura nell'Aula Seminar dell'Eurac Convention Center (viale Druso, 1)

Bancarella per il libro più venduto nell'anno in Italia. Una delle sue teorie era che la perizia costruttiva di alcune antiche popolazioni, che produssero opere tra cui Stonehenge o le piramidi, si spiegava solo con la presenza di «antichi astronauti».

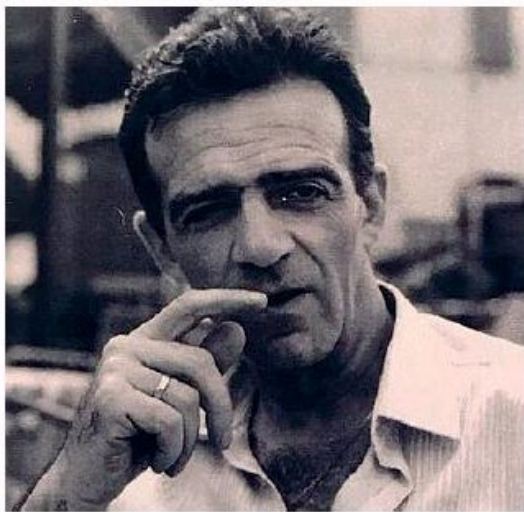
Kolosimo ebbe stretti legami con Bolzano, dove si era trasferito da ragazzo, arruolandosi durante la Seconda guerra mondiale nella Wehrmacht da cui disertò per entrare nelle fila dei partigiani boemi. Nel Dopoguerra fu giornalista e corrispondente estero di quotidiani socialisti e comunisti, diventò redattore capo dei programmi in lingua italiana di quella che sarebbe divenuta Radio Capodistria e iniziò a pubblicare racconti di fantascienza. Tornato a Bolzano, nel 1961 conobbe la giornalista e scrittrice bolzanina Caterina Serafin, sua futura moglie con cui pubblicò alcuni libri. I due ebbero una figlia, Alessandra Kolosimo, anch'essa ricercatrice. Nel simposio moglie e figlia, assieme ad altri relatori, racconteranno l'opera di questo avventuroso protagonista del Novecento che divenne uno degli autori italiani più conosciuti al mondo, tradotto in 60 Paesi e che, dopo un soggiorno a Torino, si trasferì a Milano dove morì nel 1984.

«Per noi fu fatale un annuncio di lavoro: la Farmag di corso Libertà a Bolzano cerca-



Opera grandiosa Stonehenge è un monumento megalitico che sorge ad Amesbury, nella contea del Wiltshire, in Inghilterra. È una delle opere la cui origine è da sempre avvolta nel mistero

Enigma Kolosimo



Protagonista
Peter Kolosimo, pseudonimo di Pier Domenico Colosimo, era nato a Modena il 15 dicembre 1922

va una persona che parlasse il tedesco e quando mi presentai fu lui ad accogliermi con un cane lupo - ricorda Caterina Serafin Kolosimo - aveva vent'anni più di me e aveva già pubblicato un libro».

L'incontro del 15 dicembre, voluto dal Movimento Univer-

A cento anni dalla nascita Bolzano dedica un convegno allo scrittore autore di articoli e bestseller sui misteri dell'archeologia

sitario Altoatesino in collaborazione con diversi partner tra cui Fondazione Upad, Biblioteca provinciale «Claudia Augusta», Società Dante Alighieri di Merano, Museo del Fantastico di Torino e Libreria Esoterica di Milano, è sostenuto dall'Ufficio Cultura del Comune di Bolzano e dalla Provincia. A moderarlo saranno Caterina Kolosimo ed Edoardo Russo - curatore di un'antologia sullo scrittore - che terrà la relazione «Uno, nessuno e centomila Kolosimo».

La diretta si potrà seguire in

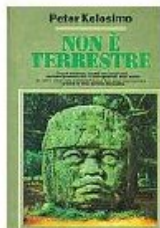
streaming dalle 16.30 sul canale Youtube di Upad e in sala all'Eurac Convention Center, con gli interventi di Piero Bianucci, scrittore e giornalista scientifico, fondatore di *Tut-toscienze* che parlerà di «Il mio Peter Kolosimo»; Stefano Bigliardi, professore associato di Filosofia e Storia delle idee all'Al Akhawayn University in Marocco, con un intervento su «Scienza e religione nei libri di Kolosimo» e Marco Ciardi, ordinario di Storia della Scienza e delle tecniche all'Università di Firenze, su «Kolosimo tra scienza, fanta-

scienza e fumetti». Seguiranno alle 18 in presenza le relazioni di Fabio Camilletti, ordinario alla School of Modern Languages and Cultures dell'Università di Warwick (Inghilterra) su «Il fantasma semiotico della fantarcheologia», Giulia Iannuzzi del Dipartimento di Studi umanistici dell'Università di Trieste su «Kolosimo e Sugar-Co: editoria, archeologie fantastiche, futuri passati», Mirko Molteni, giornalista e scrittore autore di una storia dei servizi segreti e di Alessandra Kolosimo, bio archeologa alla Stockholm University, su «L'archeologia misteriosa di Peter Kolosimo». Da remoto il giornalista, scrittore e conduttore televisivo Roberto Giacobbo. Prenotazioni online su www.eventbrite.it, allo 0471 933197 o a mua@upad.it.

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UN TRIONFO TUTTO ITALIANO

Da sapere



● Peter Kolosimo, pseudonimo di Pier Domenico Colosimo, è stato uno scrittore e giornalista italiano. Era nato a Modena il 15 dicembre 1922, morì a Milano il 23 marzo 1984

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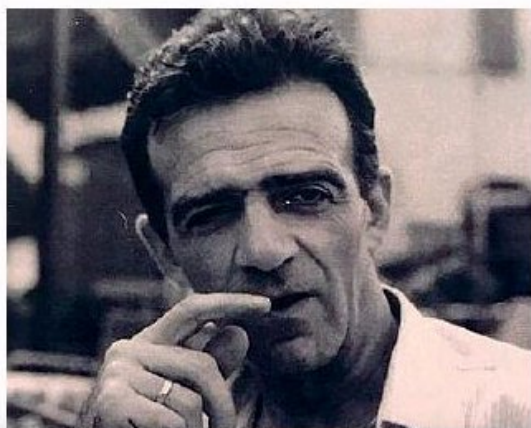
quello di Peter Kolosimo, pseudonimo di Pier Domenico Colosimo. A cent'anni dalla nascita, domani Bolzano dedicherà a questo scrittore, saggista e giornalista modenese un convegno a ingresso libero nell'Aula Seminar dell'Eurac Convention Center (viale Druso 1) dalle ore 16.30 online e dalle 18 in presenza e online. Peter Kolosimo ideò il genere editoriale dell'«archeologia misteriosa» o «fantarcheologia» ripreso da molti altri autori anche all'estero, e nel 1969 con il best seller *Non è terrestre*, vinse il Premio Bancarella per il libro più venduto nell'anno in Italia. Una delle sue teorie era che la perizia costruttiva di alcune antiche popolazioni, che produssero opere tra cui Stonehenge o le piramidi, si spiegava solo con la presenza di «antichi astronauti».

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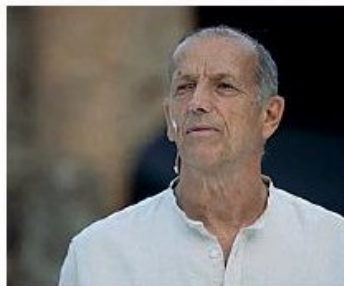
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Cultura & Spettacoli



Teatro

Baliani incontra il mistero di Pasolini

Torna al Teatro di Meano il maestro del teatro di narrazione italiano Marco Baliani, con la nuova produzione firmata Casa degli Alfieri, dal titolo *Corpo*

eretico. Dialogo in tempo presente con Pier Paolo Pasolini, spettacolo portato in scena in occasione dei cento anni dalla nascita dello scrittore bolognese. Lo spettacolo in scena domani alle 20.45 è un immaginario faccia a faccia fra l'attore-narratore e il grande intellettuale del Novecento, un

dialogo spietatamente sincero, che tenta - come scrive Baliani - «di sgomitare quei grovigli che, ogni volta che l'ho incontrato, mi hanno lasciato inquieto; contrasti sempre irrisolti e necessari a vedere le "cose" del mondo da angolazioni inaspettate».

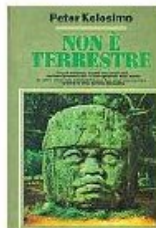
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di **Roberto Brumat**

Quando tra la metà degli anni Sessanta e i primi anni Ottanta si parlava di misteri dell'archeologia o di possibile antica colonizzazione della Terra, il nome più ricorrente tra gli esperti era quello di Peter Kolosimo, pseudonimo di Pier Domenico Colosimo. A cent'anni dalla nascita, domani Bolzano dedicherà a questo scrittore, saggista e giornalista modenese un convegno a ingresso libero nell'Aula Seminar dell'Eurac Convention Center (viale Druso 1) dalle ore 16.30 online e dalle 18 in presenza e online. Peter Kolosimo ideò il genere editoriale dell'«archeologia misteriosa» o «fantarcheologia» ripreso da molti altri autori anche all'estero, e nel 1969 con il best seller *Non è terrestre*, vinse il Premio Bancarella per il libro più venduto nell'anno in Italia. Una delle sue teorie era che la perizia costruttiva di alcune antiche popolazioni che pro-



Da sapere



● Peter Kolosimo, pseudonimo di Pier Domenico Colosimo, è stato uno scrittore e giornalista italiano. Era nato a Modena

Kolosimo, un bolzanino da riscoprire

Inventò il genere della «fanta-archeologia». Domani il convegno curato dall'Upad

Quando tra la metà degli anni Sessanta e i primi anni Ottanta si parlava di misteri dell'archeologia o di possibile antica colonizzazione della Terra, il nome più ricorrente tra gli esperti era quello di Peter Kolosimo, pseudonimo di Pier Domenico Colosimo. A cent'anni dalla nascita, domani Bolzano dedicherà a questo scrittore, saggista e giornalista modenese un convegno a ingresso libero (curato dall'Upad) nell'Aula Seminar dell'Eurac Convention Center.

a pagina **9** **Brumat**



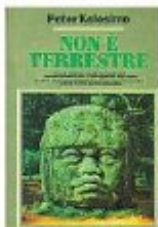
Pioniere Peter Kolosimo

MERANO

Parcheeggi rosa gratis bocciati FdI: mancanza di buonsenso

La vicesindaca di Merano, Zeller, dice no ai «parcheeggi rosa». Duro l'attacco della promotrice Zampieri (FdI): «Giunta senza buon senso».

a pagina **4** **Coco**



● Peter Kolosimo, pseudonimo di Pier Domenico Colosimo, è stato uno scrittore e giornalista italiano. Era nato a Modena il 15 dicembre 1922, morì a Milano il 23 marzo 1984.

● Le sue opere sono state tradotte in 60 Paesi ed è stato uno degli scrittori italiani più popolari degli anni Settanta.

● Nella foto la copertina di uno dei suoi libri di maggior successo, «Non è terrestre», che vinse il premio Bancarella.

● Legatissimo a Bolzano, domani la sua città d'adozione gli dedica un convegno per approfondire la sua figura nell'Aula Seminar dell'Eurac Convention Center (viale Druso, 1).

co Colosimo. A cent'anni dalla nascita, domani Bolzano dedicherà a questo scrittore, saggista e giornalista modenese un convegno a ingresso libero nell'Aula Seminar dell'Eurac Convention Center (viale Druso 1) dalle ore 16.30 online e dalle 18 in presenza e online. Peter Kolosimo ideò il genere editoriale dell'«archeologia misteriosa» o «fantarcheologia» ripreso da molti altri autori anche all'estero, e nel 1969 con il best seller *Non è terrestre*, vinse il Premio Bancarella per il libro più venduto nell'anno in Italia. Una delle sue teorie era che la perizia costruttiva di alcune antiche popolazioni, che produssero opere tra cui Stonehenge o le piramidi, si spiegava solo con la presenza di «antichi astronauti».

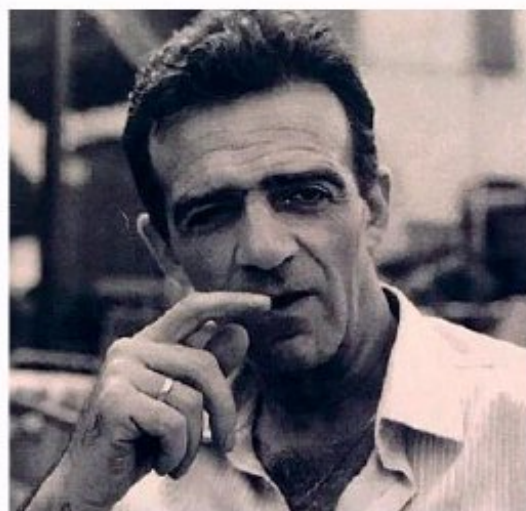
Kolosimo ebbe stretti legami con Bolzano, dove si era trasferito da ragazzo, arruolandosi durante la Seconda guerra mondiale nella Wehrmacht da cui disertò per entrare nelle fila dei partigiani boemi. Nel Dopoguerra fu giornalista e corrispondente estero di quotidiani socialisti e comunisti, diventò redattore capo dei programmi in lingua italiana di quella che sarebbe divenuta Radio Capodistria e iniziò a pubblicare racconti di fantascienza. Tornato a Bolzano, nel 1961 conobbe la giornalista e scrittrice bolzanina Caterina Serafin, sua futura moglie con cui pubblicò alcuni libri. I due ebbero una figlia, Alessandra Kolosimo, anch'essa ricercatrice. Nel simposio moglie e figlia, assieme ad altri relatori, racconteranno l'opera di questo avventuroso protagonista del Novecento che divenne uno degli autori italiani più conosciuti al mondo, tradotto in 60 Paesi e che, dopo un soggiorno a Torino, si trasferì a Milano dove morì nel 1984.

«Per noi fu fatale un annuncio di lavoro: la Farmag di corso Libertà a Bolzano cerca-



Opera grandiosa Stonehenge è un monumento megalitico che sorge ad Amesbury, nella contea del Wiltshire, in Inghilterra. È una delle opere la cui origine è da sempre avvolta nel mistero

Enigma Kolosimo



Protagonista
Peter Kolosimo, pseudonimo di Pier Domenico Colosimo, era nato a Modena il 15 dicembre 1922

va una persona che parlasse il tedesco e quando mi presentai fu lui ad accogliermi con un cane lupo - ricorda Caterina Serafin Kolosimo - aveva vent'anni più di me e aveva già pubblicato un libro».

L'incontro del 15 dicembre, voluto dal Movimento Univer-

A cento anni dalla nascita Bolzano dedica un convegno allo scrittore autore di articoli e bestseller sui misteri dell'archeologia

sitario Altoatesino in collaborazione con diversi partner tra cui Fondazione Upad, Biblioteca provinciale «Claudia Augusta», Società Dante Alighieri di Merano, Museo del Fantastico di Torino e Libreria Esoterica di Milano, è sostenuto dall'Ufficio Cultura del Comune di Bolzano e dalla Provincia. A moderarlo saranno Caterina Kolosimo ed Edoardo Russo - curatore di un'antologia sullo scrittore - che terrà la relazione «Uno, nessuno e centomila Kolosimo».

La diretta si potrà seguire in

streaming dalle 16.30 sul canale Youtube di Upad e in sala all'Eurac Convention Center, con gli interventi di Piero Bianucci, scrittore e giornalista scientifico, fondatore di *Tut-toscienze* che parlerà di «Il mio Peter Kolosimo»; Stefano Bigliardi, professore associato di Filosofia e Storia delle idee all'Al Akhawayn University in Marocco, con un intervento su «Scienza e religione nei libri di Kolosimo» e Marco Ciardi, ordinario di Storia della Scienza e delle tecniche all'Università di Firenze, su «Kolosimo tra scienza, fanta-

scienza e fumetti». Seguiranno alle 18 in presenza le relazioni di Fabio Camilletti, ordinario alla School of Modern Languages and Cultures dell'Università di Warwick (Inghilterra) su «Il fantasma semiotico della fantarcheologia», Giulia Iannuzzi del Dipartimento di Studi umanistici dell'Università di Trieste su «Kolosimo e Sugar-Co: editoria, archeologie fantastiche, futuri passati», Mirko Molteni, giornalista e scrittore autore di una storia dei servizi segreti e di Alessandra Kolosimo, bio archeologa alla Stockholm University, su «L'archeologia misteriosa di Peter Kolosimo». Da remoto il giornalista, scrittore e conduttore televisivo Roberto Giacobbo. Prenotazioni online su www.eventbrite.it, allo 0471 933197 o a mua@upad.it.

Cultura & Spettacoli



Teatro Baliani incontra il mistero di Pasolini

Torna al Teatro di Meano il maestro del teatro di narrazione italiano Marco Baliani, con la nuova produzione firmata Casa degli Alfieri, dal titolo *Corpo*

eretico. Dialogo in tempo presente con Pier Paolo Pasolini, spettacolo portato in scena in occasione del cento anni dalla nascita dello scrittore bolognese. Lo spettacolo in scena domani alle 20.45 è un immaginario faccia a faccia fra l'attore-narratore e il grande intellettuale del Novecento, un

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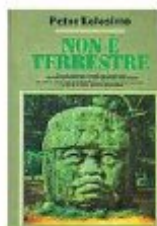
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di Roberto Brumat

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Da sapere



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● Nella foto la copertina di uno dei suoi



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Cultura & Spettacoli



A Rovereto

La dark fantasy di Loon Martian

«Stessa spiaggia stesso mare». Il titolo ricorda una canzone degli anni Sessanta, ma è il libro di Loon Martian, scrittrice norvegese. Venerdì alle ore 18

nella Biblioteca Tartarotti di Rovereto Loon Martian presenterà il suo romanzo dark fantasy. L'autrice si chiede: «E se le fate esistessero? E se non fossero quello che ti aspetti». La trama ricca di colpi di scena, parte da una normale famiglia in vacanza nello stesso campeggio di sempre, stessa spiaggia e

stesso mare, appunto. Ma una tragedia la sorprende quando la figlia scompare e il padre è costretto a intraprendere un incredibile viaggio in un mondo fantastico in cui deve imparare a districarsi per sopravvivere. E' così che quella che doveva essere una ricerca rischia di trasformarsi in tanto altro. (R.B.)

GENTE

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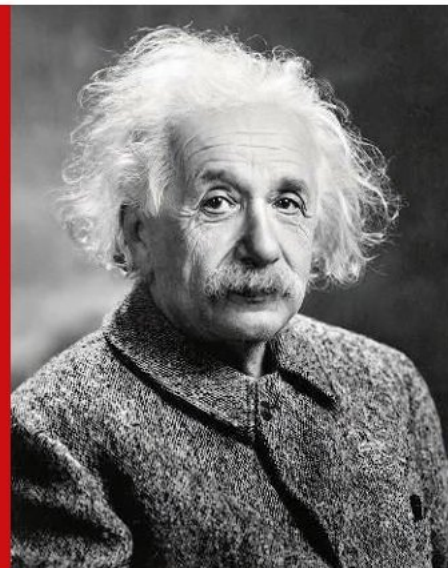
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PARLÒ DI CONTATTI CON GLI ALIENI

**LA BUFALA
DI EINSTEIN**
Albert Einstein
(1879-1955): una
leggenda vuole
che il matematico
tedesco avesse
lavorato con Tesla
a un esperimento
sul teletrasporto,
facendo
scompare una
nave da guerra
con tanto
di equipaggio.
Si trattava
ovviamente
di una bufala.



forfettario. E dire che ancora oggi la corrente che arriva nelle nostre case è quella alternata: il suo patrimonio e quello dei suoi eredi sarebbe potuto essere infinito.

Ma Tesla non si fermò a questa scoperta: si occupò anche della possibilità di trasmettere la corrente attraverso l'etere, di raggi X e persino della radio, di cui propose un brevetto qualche anno prima di Guglielmo Marconi. Un genio eclettico, ma anche eccentrico: odiava le perle, tanto da non riuscire a parlare con chi le indossava, esigeva di alloggiare in stanze di hotel il cui numero fosse divisibile per tre e aveva una fobia per le persone grasse. Tutti disturbi che oggi farebbero propendere per una diagnosi di disturbo ossessivo-compulsivo, ma che all'epoca lo rendevano un personaggio sopra le righe. Si occupò anche di ricerche abbastanza controverse: a un certo punto disse di aver captato dei messaggi extraterrestri e lavorò persino a un "raggio della morte" che nelle sue intenzioni avrebbe dovuto porre fine a ogni guerra. Fu forse per questo e per il fatto di non aver lasciato una grande documentazione sui suoi infiniti progetti che con gli anni intorno a lui sono nate varie teorie pseudoscientifiche. Una delle più famose è l'esperimento di Filadelfia, oggetto di film e libri. Secondo una leggenda, Tesla e Einstein stavano studiando il teletrasporto, tanto che furono in grado di far scomparire un'intera nave da guerra, la Eldridge, con tanto di equipaggio. L'esperimento non finì bene: la nave venne sì teletrasportata di 500 km, ma alcuni marinai fecero una brutta fine, persi nel viaggio o incorporati nelle strutture metalliche della nave. La storia non è nient'altro che una bufala inventata da un tale Morris Jessup, ma è stata comunque capace di stimolare la fantasia di molti.

AVEVA DELLE FISSAZIONI: DETESTAVA LE PERLE E LE PERSONE GRASSE

Per tutte le sue idee Tesla è diventato in qualche modo un mito che resiste ancora oggi. L'importante è ricordarlo per le ragioni giuste: la sua genialità e la sua capacità di cambiare per sempre le nostre vite.

Licia Troisi



DUE GRANDI SCIENZIATI CON IDEE OPPOSTE

A sinistra, Tesla davanti a una delle sue invenzioni. Sotto, Thomas Edison (1847-1931), l'inventore della lampadina: Tesla gli propose i suoi progetti per la corrente alternata, ma Edison era convinto che non avrebbero funzionato.



in genere collegate a parole e idee specifiche. Oggi sintomi del genere verrebbero ricondotti a una condizione chiamata sinestesia, per la quale le percezioni derivate dai vari sensi tendono a confondersi tra loro.

In ogni caso, fin da subito iniziò a dedicarsi allo studio di quell'elettricità che tanto lo affascinava, sia da un punto di vista teorico sia pratico, tanto che elaborò – rigorosamente

PER FARE PUBBLICITÀ ALLE SUE INVENZIONI IDEAVA DEGLI SHOW

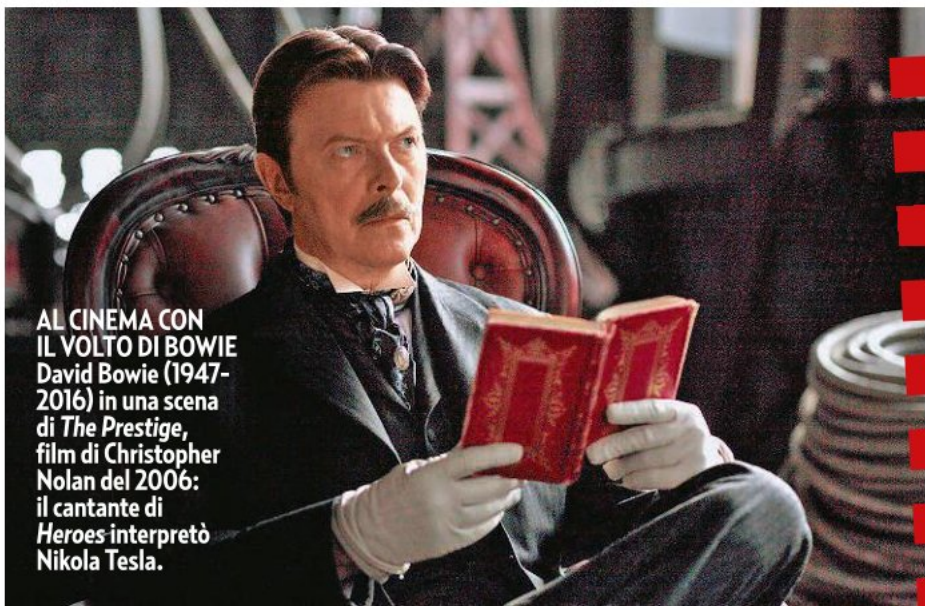
a mente, senza bisogno di schemi disegnati – diverse invenzioni che la impiegavano. La più importante fu quella di un generatore che era in grado di produrre corrente alternata. Tutti sappiamo che la corrente elettrica è dovuta al moto degli elettroni all'interno di un circuito chiuso formato da un filo conduttore. Se gli elettroni viaggiano sempre in un'unica direzione, abbiamo la corrente continua, ma se la direzione cambia a intervalli regolari, abbiamo la corrente alternata. All'epoca di Tesla veniva utilizzata soltanto la corrente continua, perché, prima della sua intuizione, non esistevano modi efficaci per produrre corrente alternata. Ma la corrente continua aveva e ha dei limiti: può essere trasportata senza dispersioni solo per brevi spazi, infatti le centrali che la producevano si trovavano in prossimità dei luoghi in cui veniva utilizzata.

Tesla era assolutamente convinto che il futuro fosse nell'uso della corrente alternata e, col suo progetto, si presentò a quello che in quegli anni era considerato un genio e il massimo esperto di fenomeni elettrici: Thomas Edison, l'inventore

della lampadina. Quando Tesla gli propose la sua invenzione, Edison la rigettò, convinto com'era che lo sfruttamento della corrente alternata fosse solo una chimera. Tesla fece buon viso a cattivo gioco e continuò a lavorare per Edison, proponendo una modifica alla sua dinamo in modo da renderla più efficiente. Era stato proprio Edison a commissionargli quel lavoro, per altro promettendogli un premio di 50 mila dollari, che però non gli corrispose mai. L'episodio causò una rottura dei rapporti tra i due e, sostanzialmente, diede inizio alla "guerra della corrente elettrica", che vide Edison e Tesla contrapporsi su due fronti: a sostegno della corrente continua il primo, di quella alternata il secondo.

Tesla presto fondò una sua azienda ed entrò in contatto con il capo di una compagnia di telegrafi, Alfred K. Browne, col quale iniziò una collaborazione. Nel frat-

tempo, fece pubblicità alla propria invenzione anche con grandi show per il pubblico in cui ne dimostrava non solo la sicurezza ma anche la spettacolarità. Edison, dal canto suo, fece di tutto per dimostrare che il suo sistema fosse migliore e più sicuro, a volte giocando sporco. Ma fu tutto inutile: divenne palese che la corrente alternata fosse il sistema migliore, proprio perché poteva essere trasportata senza dispersioni per lunghe distanze. Tesla vinse la sua guerra, ma fu una vittoria senza gloria: forse per ingenuità, forse per autentico disinteresse, rinunciò ad avere una percentuale su ogni generatore di corrente alternata prodotto, cosa che l'avrebbe reso immensamente ricco. Cedette la sua invenzione per un premio ►



AL CINEMA CON IL VOLTO DI BOWIE David Bowie (1947-2016) in una scena di *The Prestige*, film di Christopher Nolan del 2006: il cantante di *Heroes* interpretò Nikola Tesla.

GENTE

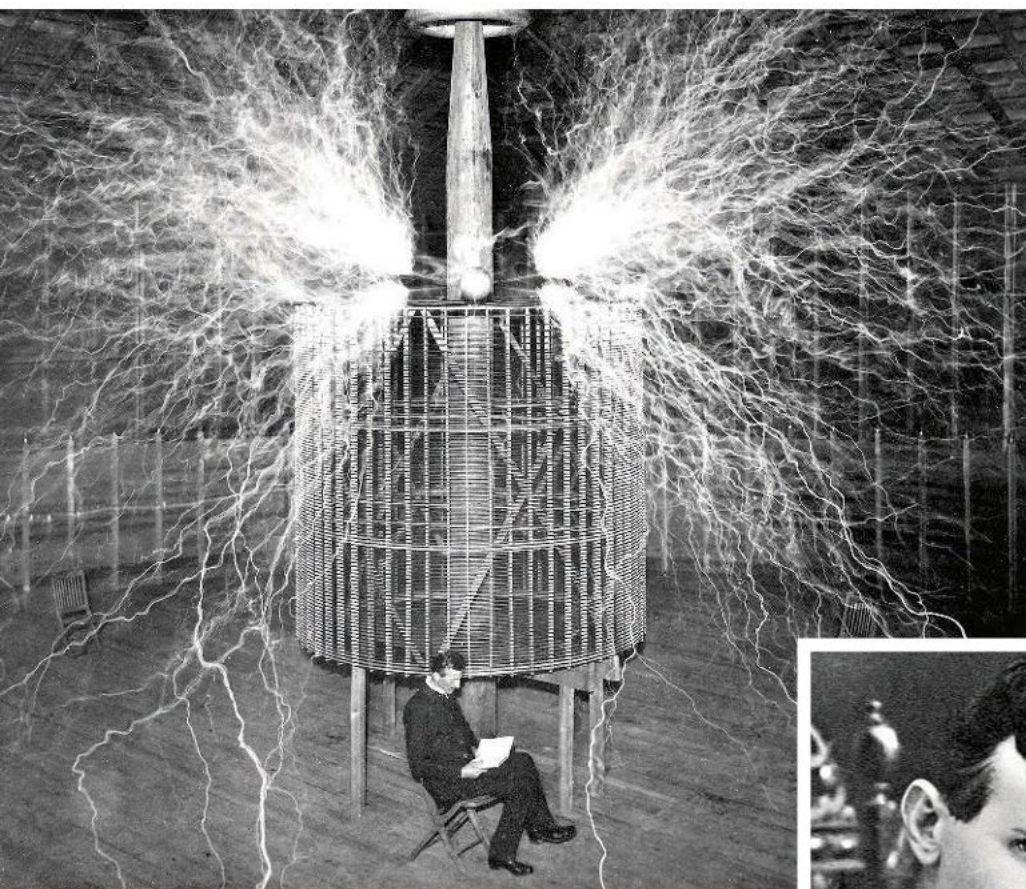
LICIA TROISI RACCONTA

VINSE CONTRO IL SUO RIVALE, THOMAS EDISON, MA DALLA SUA SCOPERTA NON GUADAGNÒ QUANTO AVREBBE POTUTO. ECCO LA SUA VITA TRA LUNGIMIRANTI STUDI, ALLUCINAZIONI E INSOLITE FOBIE



AUTRICE DI FAMA MONDIALE
Roma. Licia Troisi, 42 anni, astrofisica e scrittrice. Ha una rubrica su *Quante Storie* di Raitre, ha condotto *Terza pagina* su Rai 5 e ha vinto il premio Asimov nel 2022 per il suo impegno nella divulgazione.

IL GRANDE GENIO CHE RIVOLUZIONÒ L'ELETTRICITÀ: NIKOLA TESLA

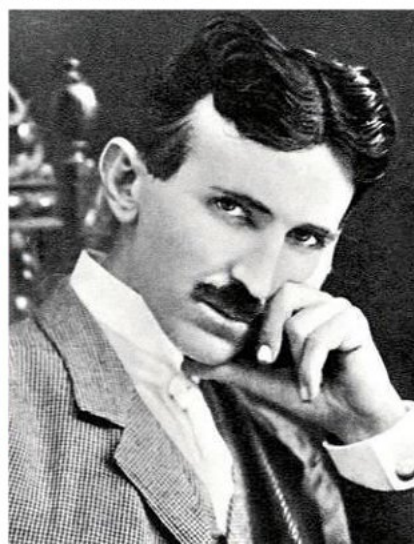


di Licia Troisi

È l'unità di misura del sistema internazionale legata al campo magnetico. È una famosa azienda che produce macchine elettriche. È il personaggio di un film di Christopher Nolan, interpretato da David Bowie. E, sì, viene anche tirato in ballo a sproposito da cospirazionisti e sostenitori delle pseudoscienze. Ma cosa accomuna queste realtà così apparentemente lontane tra loro? Il comun denominatore è il nome di uno scienziato che visse tra il XVIII e il XIX secolo, un ricercatore geniale e una personalità eccentrica. Si tratta di Nikola Tesla, fisico e ingegnere elettrico, che tra le altre cose fu anche inventore: esistono 700 brevetti registrati a suo nome.

Tesla nacque nel 1856, nell'allora Impero Austroungarico, in un villaggio oggi croato, e fin da bambino fu sempre affascinato dall'elettricità, al cui studio dedicò gran parte della sua vita. Forse la cosa aveva a che fare anche col fatto che spesso vedeva lampi luminosi, accompagnati da allucinazioni

IL SUO SPETTACOLARE TRASMETTITORE
Nikola Tesla (1856-1943) davanti all'enorme trasmettitore, il cosiddetto *Magnifying Transmitter*, nel suo laboratorio di Colorado Springs, negli Stati Uniti. A destra, un ritratto dello scienziato, che era nato a Smiljan, nell'odierna Croazia.



Era accusato di falso e truffa ai danni dello Stato, ma adesso per l'ex comandante dei Carabinieri di Chiesa è finito un incubo

CHIESA IN VALMALENCO (gdl)

Assolto perché ritenuto non imputabile a causa del grave stato psico-fisico in cui versava all'epoca dei fatti.

Per il luogotenente dei Carabinieri in congedo **Alessandro Di Roio** è finito un incubo. Giovedì il giudice del tribunale di Sondrio **Carlo Camnasio** si è infatti pronunciato a favore dell'ex comandante della Stazione di Chiesa, sul quale gravava un'accusa di falso ideologico in atto pubblico e truffa ai danni dello Stato. Al termine dell'udienza Di Roio non è riuscito a trattenere l'emozione e tutta la tensione si è sciolta in un abbraccio con il suo avvocato **Marco Della Luna** e in un'attestazione di stima nei confronti del giudice.

Di Roio era stato accusato di aver «gonfiato» le ore di effettivo servizio nei pattugliamenti, intascando così la «bellezza» di 80 euro in più in busta paga.

In aula il pubblico ministero **Marialina Contaldo** ha presentato i capi di imputazione, chiedendo un anno e tre mesi di reclusione per Di Roio. Secondo l'accusa il militare in diverse occasioni, nel 2019, avrebbe dichiarato più ore di servizio di quante realmente effettuate e avrebbe svolto impegni personali durante il lavoro. Lo si era accusato di essersi rivolto a un falegname della zona durante il servizio solo per controllare la realizzazione di un carro allegorico sul tema degli Ufo e di essersi recato ad Albosaggia insieme alla sua pattuglia solo per visionare una casa che intendeva comprare.

Tutte accuse che sia lui che il suo avvocato hanno rigettato fermamente.

«Le testimonianze di due militari hanno fatto emergere come i programmi dei pattugliamenti possano subire cambiamenti - ha riferito Della Luna nella sua arringa finale -. Possono sopravvivere casi per cui i piani iniziali possono mutare e quindi è possibile commettere errori nella trascrizione degli effettivi orari di servizio. Il mio cliente ha fallato nel compilare diversi di questi rapporti, ma si tratta di errori e non di falsità intenzionali. In poche parole non

Dare la «caccia» agli Ufo non è reato, assolto il maresciallo dei Carabinieri



Da sinistra Alessandro Di Roio, Felice Sirtori e Marco Della Luna, giovedì mattina in tribunale a Sondrio, dove si è tenuta l'ultima udienza del processo contro l'ex comandante dei Carabinieri di Chiesa. Sopra una delle tante immagini che immortalano oggetti volanti non identificati in Valmalenco, soprannominata per questo fenomeno la «Valle dei misteri»

c'è stato dolo e mai il mio cliente ha voluto truffare lo Stato».

Infatti, secondo l'imputato e il suo legale, la ragione dei guai di Di Roio sarebbe stata un'altra: non voleva smettere di occuparsi di Ufo e alieni.

«Di Roio ha dato tutto all'Arma e ha ricevuto riconoscimenti da ogni parte - ha spiegato l'avvocato difensore -. Tuttavia, come dichiarato da alcuni testimoni, era tenuto sotto tiro e controllato dai superiori dell'epoca».

Fino ad arrivare a essere denunciato. Ma i casi a lui contestati, secondo la difesa,

erano solo un pretesto.

«La vera ragione di questo comportamento verso Di Roio, persona meritevole, eccellente militare e fervente cattolico, è il fatto che aveva cominciato a ricevere e quindi a trasmettere segnalazioni di Ufo e alieni in Valmalenco», ha spiegato l'avvocato.

Nel 2011 l'allora maresciallo dei carabinieri aveva cominciato ad annotare i primi fenomeni sospetti. Da lì in avanti sempre più persone si erano recate alla Stazione dei Carabinieri per riferire di avere visto in cielo oggetti volanti dalle strane forme che face-

vano appunto pensare agli Ufo; con tanto di fotografie portate come prova. Con il passare degli anni le testimonianze divennero sempre più numerose. E puntualmente Di Roio inviava i moduli delle segnalazioni con tanto di foto e firme dei testimoni al Comando di Compagnia, rapporti destinati a essere trasmessi al ministero della Difesa e all'Aeronautica militare.

«Ma, a quanto dichiarato dal mio cliente e da alcuni testimoni, nel 2019 i suoi superiori gli avevano chiesto di smettere di inoltrare questi

rapporti, perché li mettevano in imbarazzo con i comandi della Difesa e dell'Aeronautica militare - ha spiegato Della Luna -. Lui però non ha smesso, ritenendo di essere nel giusto e di svolgere solo il suo dovere. Complessivamente aveva inoltrato 23 rapporti».

Avvistamenti, foto e segnalazioni che sono finiti in un dossier depositato dall'avvocato insieme agli altri atti del procedimento.

A sostenere moralmente Di Roio in aula c'era **Felice Sirtori**, referente provinciale del Gaus, Gruppo accademico ufologico Scandicci.

«Ho sempre svolto il mio lavoro correttamente. E se sono riuscito a superare questo brutto periodo è grazie alla mia fede e alla mia grande famiglia che mi ha sempre sostenuto - ha commentato Di Roio, visibilmente emozionato -. Desidero altresì ringraziare il mio avvocato, il giudice Camnasio e tutti gli amici che mi hanno supportato».

Infine si è lasciato andare a una battuta di spirito: «E' più fantascientifica questa storia giudiziaria creata dai miei ex colleghi che le cronache sugli Ufo...».

GIORNALE di SONDRIO

Centro valle

Il Settimanale della Valtellina

netweek

n. 02 • Sabato 14 Gennaio 2023

Chiuso il processo che vedeva imputato l'ex comandante della Stazione di Chiesa

Maresciallo assolto, dare la... «caccia» agli Ufo non è reato



Da sinistra, l'ex
comandante
della Stazione
Carabinieri di
Chiesa Alessandro
Di Roio e il
suo avvocato
Marco Della Lu-
na

Terza vittoria legale per l'ex maresciallo

Il caso. Alessandro Di Roio, già comandante in Valmalenco, proscioltto dalle accuse di truffa e falso ideologico. Non imputabile per la grave situazione psico-fisica in cui si trovava. Il legale: «Colpa delle segnalazioni sugli Ufo»

ELISABETTA DEL CURTO

Terza vittoria consecutiva per Alessandro Di Roio, 58 anni, sposato, nove figli, per anni e fino al 2019 comandante della stazione dei Carabinieri di Chiesa in Valmalenco. Ieri il luogotenente (ora in congedo) è stato mandato assolto anche dal Tribunale di Sondrio, decisione che segue l'annullamento da parte del Tar del procedimento disciplinare avviato a suo carico dai superiori e che segue la sentenza di non doversi procedere, emessa il 12 ottobre dello scorso anno dal Tribunale militare di Verona.

Decisione veloce

Ci ha messo pochissimi minuti a decidere il giudice monocratico Carlo Camnasio, in capo al quale era incardinato il procedimento. Neanche il tempo di ritirarsi in camera di consiglio per valutare la requisitoria del pm Marialina Contaldo (che ha chiesto una condanna a 15 mesi) e l'arringa del difensore Marco Della Luna, che subito è tornato in aula col verdetto finale.

«Assolto per non imputabilità», ha sentenziato, laddove la non imputabilità discende dalla grave situazione psico-fisica in cui si trovava il maresciallo Di Roio all'epoca dei fatti contestati. L'accusa era di truffa e falso ideologico.

Da tutti stimato, non solo in Valmalenco, dove ormai

era considerato «connotato al sistema», eppure non abbastanza per evitare il controllo interno all'Arma stessa, che a un certo punto, stanti i rilievi mossi da alcuni colleghi, sono scattati pedinamenti e appostamenti per verificare che quanto dichiarato sugli ordini di servizio corrispondesse poi al vero.

Secondo i superiori dell'epoca - ci riferiamo alla prima metà del 2019 - no, la corrispondenza non c'era: tesi ribadita ieri mattina in aula dallo stesso pubblico ministero. La pm è tornata sui reati di truffa e falso ideologico contestati a Di Roio, in relazione a quattro ordini di servizio che avrebbe sottoscritto, indicando orari diversi di ingresso in servizio rispetto a quelli dati per effettuati dai

■ Gli si contestava di avere anticipato l'entrata in servizio e di avere sottratto 80 euro netti

■ L'avvocato: «Il materiale sugli avvistamenti infastidiva e non era gradito»

superiori. Secondo l'accusa li avrebbe anticipati, arrivando così a sottrarre allo Stato la cifra di 110,15 euro lordi, pari ad 80 euro netti.

Ricostruzione che Di Roio nega risolutamente, ribadendo di «non aver mai falsato alcun atto», ci ha detto ieri, prima e dopo il processo cui ha assistito, come ha sempre fatto anche nelle altre cinque udienze che lo hanno coinvolto, e come ha fatto anche al Tribunale militare di Verona, deciso a bere l'amaro calice fino in fondo.

Accanimento

Secondo il suo avvocato Marco Della Luna le false accuse sarebbero nate «a causa della mole di moduli di avvistamento di Ufo, oggetti volanti non identificati - ha ricordato -. Ben 23 quelli che ha inoltrato al comando provinciale di Sondrio dal 2013 al 2019, in seguito a precise segnalazioni giunte da cittadini e da turisti della Valmalenco. Segnalazioni che da Sondrio dovevano poi essere inviate al ministero della Difesa e all'Aeronautica militare. Questo flusso di materiale "ufologico" però infastidiva, non era gradito, aspetto più volte comunicato al mio assistito ed evidenziato in aula anche da uno dei nostri tre testimoni, il luogotenente Flavio Oberolser».

E un dossier con tutte le te-



Il luogotenente in congedo Alessandro Di Roio, a sinistra, con l'avvocato Marco Della Luna

stimonianze sugli avvistamenti Ufo raccolte da Di Roio è stato depositato anche in Tribunale in quanto nella penultima udienza il giudice lo aveva richiesto. La veridicità delle testimonianze non era oggetto del contendere, an-

che se ieri in aula tra gli spettatori c'era anche Felice Siritori, di Sondrio, referente del Gruppo accademico ufologico Scandicci.

Siano stati gli Ufo, le testimonianze rese in aula, o piuttosto il complesso delle risul-

tanze processuali, fatto sta che Di Roio è uscito indenne dal tourbillon che l'ha investito, anche se il pubblico ministero o la Procura generale potrebbero presentare appello.

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«C'è più fantascienza in questa storia che non negli Ufo»

«Forse è più fantascientifica la storia giudiziaria cucita sulla mia persona, che la storia riferita agli Ufo, che sono più veri».

Questo il commento a caldo, espresso ieri mattina, da Alessandro Di Roio, al termine dell'udienza lampo che lo ha visto, ancora una volta, sul

banco degli imputati per rispondere di falso ideologico e truffa ai danni dello Stato, per 80 euro netti, che era accusato di aver sottratto segnando più ore di quelle effettivamente svolte.

Per Di Roio, che aveva fatto dell'Arma, si può dire, una sorta di vocazione, gli anni dal

2019 ad oggi, ma anche precedenti, sono stati terribili «perché pur essendo incorso in una grave forma depressiva - osserva il suo difensore, Marco Della Luna -, in seguito alla quale gli era pure stata sospesa la pistola, per timore che potesse compiere un gesto insano gesto, ebbene, nonostante tutto questo veniva sottoposto a continui controlli in servizio. Fino all'apertura di un procedimento per falso e truffa e all'avvio di un procedimento disciplinare».

Per il legale una contraddizione in termini, voluta per favorire l'uscita anticipata dal servizio del suo assistito, cui a un certo punto era stato tolto



La foto di un presunto avvistamento finita nel fascicolo del processo

anche il caso di Mattia Mingarelli, il giovane trovato morto ai Barchi di Chiesa a fine 2018, che ha speso in sede processuale incontrando, di fatto, il favore del giudice. Che ha respinto, infatti, la richiesta di condanna a un anno e tre mesi avanzata dal pubblico ministero.

«Ringrazio di avere la fede in Dio, perché mi ha salvato - ha detto Di Roio al termine del processo -, e ringrazio la mia famiglia, che mi ha sempre supportato, il mio avvocato, i miei amici, persino gli amici alieni e benedico il giudice, che mi ha assolto, non certo i miei aguzzini, che non intendono perdonare». **E.Del.**

We have a UFO Information Retrieval Center in Phoenix and Citizens Against UFO Secrecy in Alexandria, Va. They have the National Assn. of Ufology in Moscow and the Soyuz UFO Center in St. Petersburg.

Both nations, agrees Popovich, have stacks of photographs of glowing blobs said to be flying saucers. Crackpots who believe Elvis was kidnaped by aliens are not exclusive to America. And both sides have crops of the untalented who enter apparent trances and produce abstract paintings and oddball music.

Popovich believes these people are mediums--or telepathic cordless phones--who bring painted, printed and musical messages from space. She travels with samples.

"This is Los Angeles," she says of a small painting by one Soviet medium. It is in tempera and shows royal blue smog clouding a twinkling skyline. The effect is of fireworks over Las Vegas.

"This is the structure of the human soul," continues Popovich about another painting. It shows two clusters of eyeballs hovering in space like celestial frog spawn.

"This next one is a picture of the language structure of the constellation of Orion, believed to be the basis of Mayan," she adds. Or the basis of any Chinese menu.

As expressions, the paintings certainly may be accepted as personal interpretations. As a collection of art, they are very poor Dali.

Popovich wears an amethyst necklace that she says contains power to ward off evil spirits. She also wears a NASA watch that only keeps her safe from being late.

From her work, from her absolute faith, Popovich believes the Force is with her. Unfortunately, it hasn't carried through to her terrestrial life.

She is divorced from her cosmonaut general and says their differences were out of this world.

discovery.”

Popovich joined a safari in the mountain ranges of south Asia, tracking the Yeti, the infamous and Abominable Snowman that is fact to a scant few and myth to millions. She didn't get her Yeti.

But one dark night, says Popovich, “two giant hands grabbed hold of my daughter and tried to pull her out of her sleeping bag.” The daughter saw nothing.

The next night, she claims, “a ball of light appeared . . . and three beams of light fell on the camp. It hovered for a while before zigzagging away at high speed over our valley.

“It wasn't an aircraft. It wasn't a helicopter. It was a UFO.”

It also was a sign, Popovich says, to devote her post-military career to studying airborne phenomena.

In that work she writes, lectures, heads organizations researching anomalous phenomena and is proposing a series of television programs to contradict what she considers the UFO-busting propaganda of the PBS series “Nova.”

Popovich also is aviation consultant to such groups as the Inter-Sectoral Scientific and Technical Center of Venture Non-Traditional Technologies, which addresses the theoretical, applied and technological problems of torsion field magnetism. (No television program is planned.)

Popovich does not believe that Twilight Zone experiences in the Soviet Union have been any more startling or detailed than events reported in the United States.

Our grocery store tabloids accuse the Air Force of holding mummified remains of a space being found in New Mexico. The main Soviet rumor, says Popovich, is of extraterrestrial metals found at a saucer crash site near Minsk.

Friday-night vodka parties.

* Skeptics pose no threat to serious students of ufology because “in Russia they once criticized cybernetics as a rotten bourgeois pseudoscience, as they once criticized genetics.”

* And Soviet President Gorbachev could be an extraterrestrial front man because “he’s an epoch-making phenomenon.” She makes no such claim for President Bush.

Interviewed through three interpreters—one for technical terms, another for conversational nuances and jokes, and a third who said he used to be a major in the KGB--Popovich says her own experiences in space have been rather down to Earth.

As an air force colonel, she came within two finals of graduating from cosmonaut school. She was dropped, she said, after cosmonaut Pavel Popovich, the general she married, convinced officials that his woman’s place was anywhere but in a space capsule.

Previously, Marina was a test pilot, living in Star City and flying the full Soviet aircraft inventory from AN-22 transports to supersonic MIG-21s. She holds 90 flight records and has been billed as “the Chuck Yeager of the Soviet Union.”

It was during those test flights that Popovich’s attention went from the skies around her to the Earth below.

“I saw rivers drying up, lakes dying, the whole ecological disaster,” she remembers. “We were ruining soil for its natural resources, building ozone holes, creating dams that spoiled the dynamics of the Earth’s rotation.”

Economic activities intended to benefit a nation and a continent, she realized, were actually ravaging the ecology.

“I knew we would have to call a higher intelligence to enlighten us, to guide us through this mess,” she explains. “So I started on a long, personal journey of

“We had been researching UFOs for 25 years and talking about it in small groups, but underground. People who tried to talk in public about UFOs were either fired or put in psychiatric hospitals.”

But now, in just two years, a Moscow magazine titled “Inward Path” has become a 50,000-reader forum for yogis, psychics, faith healers, ufologists and other bearers of formerly taboo news. More important, the monthly is printed on the presses of Pravda, the official government newspaper.

Such outing has brought absolute freedom of speech for Popovich and her army of “tens of thousands of scientists, academics and lay volunteers” devoted to close encounters of any kind.

They, like her, believe there are too many sightings, too many unexplained visitations to not believe in an extraterrestrial intelligence struggling to communicate with our planet. The argument that such highly sophisticated ETs should have little difficulty making direct and unmistakable communication with primitive earthlings does not wash with Popovich.

“The bottom line of these multiple contacts is: ‘We are not going to give you our technological information until you raise your spiritual and moral levels on Earth,’ ” she says. “And the only way to raise them is with unity, as one Earth together to reducing negative feelings, pollution and other detrimental-based energies.”

She is equally firm in other beliefs:

* The inventions of Leonardo da Vinci, the writings of Jules Verne and now the science fiction of Ray Bradbury were and are technology transmissions from outer space using the three men as mediums. Or maybe *they* were, and are, messengers from outer space.

* Only 10% of all UFO sightings have significance. The rest can be explained as hallucinations, space debris, marsh gas, weather balloons, first ascendancy stars and



Out of This World : UFOs: A former Soviet air force colonel preaches the gospel of extraterrestrial visitation, in which the friendly folk from outer space are waiting for us to get our act together.

BY PAUL DEAN

NOV. 20, 1991 12 AM PT



TIMES STAFF WRITER

Winds of *glasnost* that have scattered Soviet secrets from KGB management skills to the final blame for Chernobyl are airing another classified operation: UFO research sightings.

“For 25 years now there have been secret studies by the Ministry of Defense,” says Marina Lavrentevna Popovich, a former test pilot with a doctorate in flight technology from the University of Leningrad who, almost overnight, has become lead spokesperson for extraterrestrial happenings over Eastern Europe. “They (officials) are beginning to open the archives, but very slowly.”

Full and final release, she believes, will be a long time coming in a nation addressing the more pressing priorities of bread lines and civil wars.

“We think the reports will confirm about 14,000 contacts (UFO sightings) in the past 25 years,” says Popovich, 54. She was in Los Angeles to speak at this week’s Whole Life Expo that heard holists, gurus, channelers, metaphysicists and a speech by presidential candidate Jerry Brown. “But I don’t think we’ll find anything in the secret files to change the direction of our work.”

Before *glasnost*, she says, UFO watching was neither safe nor easy in the Soviet Union.

01, 11/01/2023

Pd: Bonaccini, a spaccarci sulle regole sembriamo marziani

(ANSA) - BOLOGNA, 11 GEN - "Se ci spacciamo sulle regole rischiamo di essere individuati come marziani. Io vorrei che cominciassimo a discutere, per riportare la gente a votare Pd e a partecipare, di sanità, scuola, lavoro, ambiente: sono abbastanza sorpreso che si sia dovuto rinviare la direzione per trovare un accordo, quindi mi auguro che volontà e buon senso portino a evitare una conta e una spaccatura. Noi dobbiamo parlare dei problemi dei cittadini e non delle regole del Pd che peraltro avevamo già cambiato e sulle quali mi auguro si trovi un accordo". Lo dice Stefano Bonaccini, parlando a margine del congresso della Cgil di Modena. (ANSA).

NES 2023-01-11 19:37 S0A QBXB POL

Pd, Bonaccini: bene accordo su regole, non chiamatele primarie online

Pd, Bonaccini: bene accordo su regole, non chiamatele primarie online "Ora parliamo di idee e di come rilanciare il partito"

Milano, 12 gen. (askanews) - "Voto online per le primarie? Chi l'ha capita così ha capito poco". Stefano Bonaccini, a margine di un evento pubblico a Siena, dà l'interpretazione "autentica" dell'accordo raggiunto ieri nella Direzione Pd: "C'è un'apertura al voto online per alcune limitate possibilità, ma si è voluto favorire al massimo la presenza fisica. Abbiamo detto che dobbiamo tornare a essere un partito popolare che sta tra la gente, che guarda le persone negli occhi, che stringe mani. Dobbiamo correggere questa percezione di un partito che era scomparso. Il massimo della presenza sarà quindi fisica. Poi, giustamente, abbiamo trovato un accordo intelligente per permettere in alcuni casi di votare anche online".

Il presidente dell'Emilia Romagna, candidato alla segreteria Dem, poi aggiunge: "Io cerco sempre l'unità. Governo da 8 anni una coalizione che va da Renzi a Fratoianni e non c'è stata mezza giornata di crisi. Cerco sempre l'unità, per cui con Schlein, Cuperlo, De Micheli bisognava evitare rotture o conte che avrebbero dato solo un'immagine negativa del Pd all'esterno. Bene così, le regole sono importanti ma gli italiani si aspettano di sapere cosa vogliamo proporre loro. Sono contento di aver trovato l'accordo perchè dobbiamo parlare di scuola, lavoro, sanità, imprese, ambiente, non possiamo discutere di regole altrimenti sembriamo dei marziani. Ora si tratta di mettere in campo le idee per un partito che vuole rigenerarsi e rilanciarsi, tornare protagonisti", sfruttando il fatto di essere all'opposizione.
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UFO

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Near Roswell, N.M., where a 1947 incident led to much speculation about flying saucers, a sign guides visitors.

Panel Urges Study Of UFO Reports

Unexplained Phenomena Need Scrutiny, Science Group Says

By KATHY SAWYER
Washington Post Staff Writer

Some supposed UFO sightings have been accompanied by unexplained physical evidence that deserves serious scientific study, an international panel of scientists has concluded.

In the first independent scientific review of the controversial topic in almost 30 years, directed by physicist Peter Sturrock of Stanford University, the panel emphasized that it had found no convincing evidence of extraterrestrial intelligence or any violation of natural laws.

But the panel cited cases that included intriguing and inexplicable details, such as burns to witnesses, radar detections of mysterious objects, strange lights appearing repeatedly in the skies over certain locales, aberrations in the workings of automobiles, and radiation and other damage found in vegetation.

The 50-page review, being released today, asserts that the scientific community might learn something worthwhile if it can overcome the fear of ridicule associated with the topic and get some funding for

targeted research to try to explain these occurrences.

"It may be valuable to carefully evaluate UFO reports to extract information about unusual phenomena currently unknown to science," the report stated, adding that such research could also improve understanding of, and in some cases debunk, supposed UFO events.

For example, Earth science researchers have eventually accepted several phenomena "originally dismissed as folk tales," including meteorites and certain types of lightning, the panel noted.

The findings are from a four-day workshop held in Tarrytown, N.Y., followed by a second three-day meeting in San Francisco, both last fall. The results are published in the current issue of the *Society for Scientific Exploration*, which was established by Sturrock.

The inquiry involved scientists from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cornell and Princeton universities, the universities of Arizona and Virginia, and institutions in France and Germany, among others. A panel of nine physical scientists analyzed presentations by eight UFO investigators, who were encouraged to present their strongest evidence. The project was funded by Laurance S. Rockefeller through his LSR Fund because of a belief, the report said, that "the problem is in a very unsatisfactory state of ignorance and confusion."

The panel suggests the scientific community has suffered a failure of curiosity regarding UFOs. Despite an abundance of reports over the last 50 years, "and despite great public interest, the scientific community has shown remarkably little interest in this topic."

Asked about the conclusions, a sampling of scientists and officials outside the panel expressed surprise that a topic with such a high "giggle factor" might be reincarnated for serious study, possibly further blurring the lines between legitimate research and the "lunatic fringe." Some said they would never comment on the touchy topic, and some said they would reserve judgment until they had read the report.

In a telephone interview, Sturrock said that he hopes at least some scientists "will read the report and become curious.... The challenge is to do good science on this issue. It's difficult."

Some reported UFO incidents could have been caused by rare natural phenomena, such as electrical activity high above thunderstorms, or other known physical effects, the panel found. But there were some phenomena they could not easily explain.

The existing evidence from past cases is unlikely to produce either a solid debunking or other satisfactory explanation of the reports, the panel found. But "new data, scientifically acquired and analyzed (especially of well-documented, recurrent events) could yield useful information," it said.

To be credible to the scientific community, future UFO "evaluations must take place with a spirit of objectivity and a willingness to evaluate rival hypotheses

that so far has been lacking, the report said.

Among the potentially fruitful areas of investigation the panel cites are:

■ Physical effects on witnesses. Burns, or sensations of heat, and eye problems are the most frequently reported forms. The available evidence, though sparse, suggests microwave, infrared, visible and ultraviolet radiation, although "a few cases seem to point toward high doses of ionizing radiation, such as X-rays or gamma rays."

■ Radar detections of UFOs. Scientific study would require the cooperation of military authorities. An example occurred in January 1994, in the skies above Paris, when an airborne crew saw "a gigantic disk" more than 3,000 feet in diameter. The disk was detected on military radar for 50 seconds, slowed abruptly from 110 knots to zero, then disappeared.

■ Semi-regular sightings of strange lights (such as those in Hessdalen, Norway, and Marfa, Tex.), in some cases associated with measured magnetic disturbances.

■ Apparent gravitational and/or inertial effects, as in a case that occurred in Ohio in 1973. A number of witnesses, both on the ground and in an Army Reserve helicopter, saw lights, including a powerful green glow, and a "cigar-shaped gray metallic object," during which time the helicopter ascended although its controls were set for descent. Scientists apparently failed to investigate the one item of physical evidence—a magnetic compass that had begun to spin during the event and was subsequently removed because it was unserviceable.

■ Injuries to vegetation and other ground traces. In a 1981 case in Trans-en-Provence, France, a witness reported an ovoid object emitting a low whistle as it flew in for a landing. Police and special UFO researchers found two concentric circles and other traces that, when subjected to laboratory analysis, showed the soil had been heavily compacted, though without major heating, and there were symptoms of aging in the plants there. A toxicologist concluded that some, though not all, of the effects could have been caused by powerful microwave radiation.

The Sturrock group said that because of advances in knowledge and technical capability, chances of significant learning are greater now than 30 years ago when the Air Force and the CIA supported a two-year investigation by the Colorado Project, directed by Edward U. Condon. That 1968 report concluded that "further extensive study of UFOs probably cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced."

The Air Force last year made public its latest report on the infamous 1947 incident near the town of Roswell, N.M., which gave rise to a whole flying-saucer culture of paranoia, up to and including the fictional television program "The X-Files." Titled "The Roswell Report: Case Closed," that report, like the Sturrock panel, reiterated earlier conclusions that there is no evidence of aliens or their spaceships.

CALISTOGAN, Calistoga, CA - April 9, 1998

Calistoga has history of UFO flybys

■ Locals fess up to their real life sightings in '70s

By Toby Mitchell

Unexpected corroboration for THE WEEKLY CALISTOGAN's story entitled "Is Logvy a sacred alien landing site?" came in the form of personal testimonies by Norm Manzer and Rotary President Joanne Coil last week at the Calistoga Rotary meeting.

Both individuals saw a large puffy glowing ball with no definitive edges hover over the Fairgrounds and then rocket off at Mach-something through a pass next to Mt. St. Helena.

Norm Manzer, whose sighting took place in the summer of 1970, was unsure what the "oddity" was, but he said it hovered "at least several hundred feet off the ground" as he stood by himself at the south end of the racetrack looking towards Tubbs Lane. It proceeded to race out of sight over a pass beside Mt. St. Helena. The only explanation for the object is that it was a



Joanne Coil, Norm Manzer and Mark Thomas have witnessed UFOs hovering over the Napa County Fairgrounds.

UFO, Manzer said. It went from Tubbs Lane to Mt. St. Helena in one or two seconds. After the object disappeared, Mark Thomas approached Manzer and asked him if he'd seen the UFO.

Joanne Coil's sighting took place in 1972, also at the fairgrounds. She was in the clubhouse with Barbara Wolleson when Mark Thomas came "sputtering" in. He'd been working on the sprinkler station when he saw the UFO. Howard Fisher invited the ladies onto a golf cart and they drove to a vantage point where they could see the object.

"It was like a puffball, but it was light and it hovered and hung around a little and then shot off towards Middletown," Coil said.

"People have told me it had to have been a gas ball. It only took an instant for it to go from hover-mode to full speed," she said.

Mark Thomas, who was present at both Coil and Manzer's sightings could not be reached for comment before the news deadline on Wednesday.

Crop Circles?

National radio show puts spotlight on Coupeville

By Maria Elena Panagi
and Keven R. Graves

Fields of flattened barley — declared to be "crop circles" by some UFO believers — thrust a Ebey's Prairie farm into the national spotlight this week.

Crowds of curious people from throughout the region started arriving in Coupeville Wednesday to see the so-called "crop circles," which were the subject of a lengthy discussion the previous night on nationally-broadcast "Coast to Coast with Art Bell."

Bell also talked about the barley fields again during Wednesday night's program.

Bell's show, aired locally by KOMO-AM 1000, frequently features extended discussions about purported UFO and paranormal phenomena.

Whidbey Island residents Capt. Kelly Sweeney and his wife Frances had phoned Bell in Arizona earlier Wednesday to report the flattened barley, which they said appeared to be in some sort of "labyrinth."

The Sweeneys were on Bell's program discussing the crop circles with Peter Davenport of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle.

Sweeney said he learned about the odd-looking designs in the barley fields while at the Greenbank Store. He and his wife immediately set out for Coupeville.

They said they were surprised by what they saw.

"It looked as if (someone) took a cookie cutter and stuck it into the field and pulled it out," Kelly Sweeney told Bell. The designs, he added, appeared to be "very precise."

Sweeney told Bell and Davenport that they did not believe the designs in the barley fields were man-made.

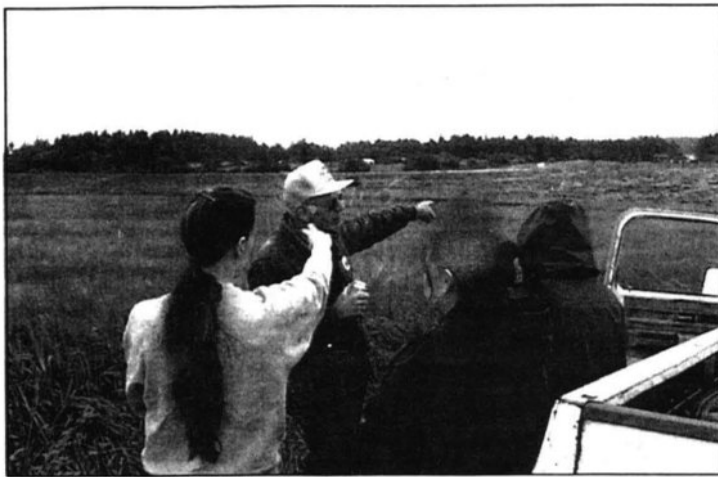
"We're sending a contingent of investigators up there tomorrow," Davenport told Bell.

The fields, located on the south side of State Highway 20 just north of Coupeville, are owned by Sherman Farms.

Members of the family that owns Sherman Farms agree that the designs probably aren't man-made. Nor, they maintain, are they made by extraterrestrials.

Wilbur Bishop, of Sherman Farms, said the same damage occurs every year, but is worse this time because of the excessive rain and wind earlier in the week.

Bishop said the barley lodges because the increased rain speeds the growth of the plant,



Photos by Keven R. Graves

Roger Sherman, of Sherman Farms, talks to some of the people who made their way to Coupeville to see the alleged "crop circles" reported Tuesday night on the nationally broadcast radio program "Coast to Coast with Art Bell." The photo at right shows the flattened barley that was the subject of speculation by crop circle aficionados.



"We could set up a booth and charge admission."

Roger Sherman

and in turn weighs it down causing it to break.

"The stems aren't strong enough," he said, "the barley is susceptible to the wind, the stems break."

Roger Sherman agreed similar damage happens annually and wondered aloud if switching back to a taller barley plant this

year may have contributed to the extensive damage.

Some visitors to the field said they don't believe the barley in the fields was flattened by the weather.

Trent and Ilene Blackburn of Seattle learned about Sherman Farms' damaged crop while visiting friends in Freeland and came to Coupeville to check it out.

The Blackburns said they had been to England to visit similar "crop circles" and enjoy witnessing such phenomena.

Poulsbo resident Jane Lane Zucker brought dowsing rods to hold over the flat-

tened barley.

Zucker said she is a member of the *Mutual UFO Network*, a national magazine which follows occurrences such as these alleged crop circles, and heard about the fields on Bell's program.

After holding her dowsing rods over the ground in the center of one of the circles, Zucker said she received some energy.

Zucker said she became sick with a migraine once after picking up large amounts of energy in a similar crop circle in England called "Snail" because of its distinctive shape.

Still, Zucker said she couldn't be certain the patterns were made by an extraterrestrial.

"I would need to see an aerial photograph to determine if there is any real pattern," she said.

A woman from Bellingham took her compass into the field to see if it might register some unusual readings.

What is a curiosity to some, however, is of serious concern for the Sherman family.

"Harvest costs rise pretty significantly when something like this happens," Don Sherman said. He estimated that about 50 percent of the barley crop was damaged.

The barley, which is used for seed and for feeding dairy cows, was severely damaged in some areas.

Roger Sherman spent the day talking with visitors to the field and took the strange events of the day in stride.

In light of all the shootings and other tragedies making national headlines lately, he said, maybe everyone deserves to have a few "crop circles."

As far as covering the loss?

"We could set up a booth and charge admission," he said with a laugh.

THE NATION

UFO groups say scientists are seeing the light

By Paul Hoversten
USA TODAY

Buoyed by suggestions from an international panel of scientists, UFO groups in the USA plan to step up efforts to push for congressional hearings into unidentified flying objects.

"This could be the thing that puts it over the top," said Steven Greer, a Charlottesville, Va., physician who heads the nonprofit Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence.

Greer was referring to Monday's report from scientists who said past and future mysterious sightings deserve serious scientific review.

The nine-member panel, which included physicists and astronomers from such institutions as the German Aerospace Center, the University of New Mexico and France's University of Bordeaux, spent nine months on the first independent review of UFOs since 1968.

The study was sponsored by the Society of Scientific Exploration of Stanford, Calif. It's an interdisciplinary organization of scholars formed to support



Sighting: Computer enhancement of a photo taken in 1981 by a family visiting a park on Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

unbiased investigation of claimed anomalous phenomena.

Though it did not find convincing evidence to support the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence, the panel noted that UFO reports dating back 50 years contain enough unexplained observations to merit another look.

"It may be valuable to carefully evaluate UFO reports to extract information about unusual phenomenon currently

unknown to science," the panel concluded. "Such evaluations must take place with a spirit of objectivity and a willingness to evaluate rival hypotheses."

The panel looked into several incidents, including:

► A photo taken on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, by a family visiting a park in October 1981. It shows a daytime view of a mountain with a silvery oval-shaped object set against the blue sky. But the panel said it is impossible to rule out a hoax.

► A 1994 report from an airline crew that spotted a gigantic, fuzzy-edged disk near Paris. The crew lost sight of the object when the edges appeared to lose focus. Swiss military radar tracked it for 50 seconds.

► A 1992 report from Haines City, Fla., patrolman Luis Delgado, who said he saw a green-lighted object in the rear-view mirror of his patrol cruiser. He said the object was 15 feet long and hovered 10 feet off the ground. It circled his car several times before he pulled off the road. Then the engine, lights and radio went dead.

The panel's conclusions are far different from those reached by Edward Condon, who headed an Air Force-sponsored study in 1968 known as the Colorado Project. That report said further study of UFOs "cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced."

But Greer said he has 150 former government employees, many from classified projects, willing to testify under oath of their experiences with UFOs and how such technology can help the world.

"These people are not the flakes you see at some bizarre UFO conference with the T-shirts and bug-eye things you wear on your head," Greer said. "These are courageous men, and in a few cases women, who do not want to take to their grave one of the most important issues of the century." He has pressed Congress and the White House to convene hearings and take the witnesses' testimony — so far to no avail.

The last congressional inquiry into UFOs was in 1966, chaired by the then-representative Gerald Ford.



Fred Matamoros / The Olympian

Sky witnesses

By Lewis Taylor
The Olympian

OLYMPIA — Court Mickelson is used to seeing aircraft in the night sky around the Hawks Prairie development where he lives, but on a summer evening five years ago, he spotted something that baffled him and his house guests.

"I was just talking with a couple of friends of mine on the porch and looked up and all of a sudden saw this thing hovering over the tree line," Mickelson recalled. "We thought we were going nuts. We didn't say a whole lot."

Mickelson's friend Rick L. Johansen offered his own recollection of the strange craft hovering in the early evening sky.

"It was in a triangular shape, and we thought it might be the end lights from a triangular craft," Johansen said. "It flew really slowly ... it made no sound."

Mickelson and Johansen thought little of the incident until the following day, when they saw a story in a Tacoma newspaper that reported a UFO sighting south of Tacoma. Johansen called the Olympia airport, but no body there could offer an explanation.

To this day, neither Johansen nor Mickelson knows exactly what he saw in the south sky five years ago. Both say they feel lucky to have a crowd of people to back up their story,

As UFO culture takes off, South Sound residents share their sightings

and both say the experience changed their opinions of UFOs.

"I'm kind of a born skeptic until I see something," said Johansen, who didn't discount the possibility of aliens. "I think there's a lot more that's known that's just not being said. ... A lot of it's science fiction, but 50 years ago, it was science fiction to be landing on the moon."

UFO-friendly state

Whether you believe the prospect of alien visitors to be science fiction or just science, the subject of UFOs is difficult to ignore in Washington. The state boasts more UFO sightings than any other, according to the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle — a fact that director Peter Davenport is quick to qualify, however.

Davenport said the statistic makes no mention of how many Washington reports are later discounted, and suggests the high incidence could simply be due to the fact that the reporting center is well known locally.

"Sightings occur everywhere, but as far as

I know, a UFO sighting is as likely to occur over any one point as any other," Davenport said. "There do seem to be flaps of localized sightings ... nobody knows why that occurs, but one is as likely to see a UFO over a city as over an empty desert."

Still, even assuming that there is no such thing as a UFO hot spot, the variety of local organizations and events and growing number of amateur UFO buffs suggest that Washington does seem to have acquired a taste for UFOs.

It all started in 1947, when pilot Kenneth Arnold spotted nine objects flying over the Cascades. He termed them "flying saucers," and that incident is widely credited as the start of modern ufology — the study of "unidentified flying objects."

Washington has shown its affinity for UFOs in other ways, as when it constructed the Space Needle in Seattle and topped it with a flying disc. Seattle is now home to at least two international UFO hot lines.

The phenomenon has not escaped the South Sound, which boasts a number of significant sightings, including a 1988 incident in Shelton and a 1979 Elk River incident, involving an alleged crash and cover-up.

This past March, a lecture and slide presentation by local ufologist James E. Clarkson drew more than 80 spectators to the Centralia College and, even without considering the current outbreak of "X-Files" fever, there seems to be a high number of local UFO aficionados, witnesses and even authorities.

"There's a lot of interest," Clarkson said. "I think every time the Hubble telescope peers out into space and people catch those incredible views ... people are becoming a lot more comfortable with the idea of intelligent life-forms."

Growing phenomenon

Clarkson, a UFO investigator from Grays Harbor County with a 30-year interest in ufology, attributed the growing interest to increased commercialism of UFO icons. He pointed to the numerous incarnations of spade-headed, black-eyed aliens, and to the popularity of television shows such as "The X-Files."

Clarkson and other ufologists say the Internet has also been a tremendous boon to the field. In addition to offering a means of communication for UFO interest groups, it also

“A LOT OF (UFO CULTURE) IS SCIENCE FICTION, BUT 50 YEARS AGO, IT WAS SCIENCE FICTION TO BE LANDING ON THE MOON.”

“RICK JOHANSEN, UFO EYEWITNESS

Further reading

- **"Abduction."** John Mack, Charles Scribners and Sons, New York, 1994.
- **"Alien Agenda."** Jim Marrs, Harper Collins, New York, 1997.
- **"The Interrupted Journey."** John G. Fuller, Dial Press, New York, 1966.
- **"Alien Harvest."** Linda Moulton Howe, Pioneer Printing, Cheyenne, 1989.
- **"Night Siege."** Allen Hynek and Philip J. Imbrogno, Ballantine, New York, 1987.

UFO organizations

- **Mutual UFO Network (MUFON)**, 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, TX 78155-4099.
- **Citizens Against UFO Secrecy**, P.O. Box 176, Stoneham, MA 02180.
- **National UFO Reporting Center**, National Hotline: (206) 722-3000.
- **Computer UFO Network (CUFON)**,

International Hotline: (206) 721-5035.
■ **Intruders Foundation**, P.O. Box 30233, New York, NY 10001.

On the Web

- **Mutual UFO Network:** www.mufon.com
- **National UFO Reporting Center:** www.ufocenter.com
- **Computer UFO Network:** www.cufon.org
- **Mutual UFO Network WA:** www.pdsnorth.com/~mufonwa/
- **Master Index of UFO Links:** www.ufomind.com

Coming up

- **Local ufologist** James E. Clarkson presents a free slide show and lecture on UFOs at 6:30 p.m. July 16 at Centralia College Library, 600 W. Locust St., Centralia. Call (360) 532-3752.

(continued on page 5)

provides a way for people to educate themselves on the subject.

"I tell people, 'Don't believe me. Go out and do the research yourself,'" Clarkson said. "I know that if people study this and they have an open mind, they're going to come away convinced that there's something going on. ... There's a lot more than meets the eye."

Clarkson, who works as a law enforcement patrol sergeant in Grays Harbor County, is also a longtime member of the Mutual UFO Network, or MUFON, the nation's largest UFO organization.

As a UFO investigator, Clarkson has looked into dozens of local sightings over the years, including the Elk River case. Although that case remains unsolved, most of the UFO sightings he investigates can easily be attributed to man-made objects or natural phenomena, Clarkson said.

"For any object that is a fixed light source or that moves at a constant velocity, there is probably a natural or man-made explanation," he said. "Man-made objects are operated upon by the laws of momentum and tend to travel in a continuous direction."

Although he has witnessed two sightings and investigated dozens of claims, Clarkson said he is still waiting for a big case or a close encounter, which includes any sighting within 500 feet.

Believers and skeptics

Lacey resident and amateur ufologist Dan M. Hall, who has never experienced a sighting himself, says he first became interested in the phenomenon in 1969 after reading the ufological classic, "The Interrupted Journey." He has read extensively on the subject ever since.

"I've come to believe that there is truly something going on," Hall said. "Having been exposed to reading and research from people who've talked to witnesses, my value system says that it's kind of hard to disregard all these people as crazy."

Hall, who is also a card-carrying MUFON member, traveled to Roswell, N.M., last summer for the 50th anniversary of the alleged UFO crash and military cover-up there. The event, which still has not been entirely explained, has come to be known as a pivotal event in the field of ufology.

While the trip gave Hall the chance to meet well-known UFO authors like Budd Hopkins and Whitley Streiber, he also saw a number of UFO aficionados who seemed to be doing more harm than good to ufology.

"I think there are a lot of people out there who are kind of wacky about it," Hall said. "They join UFO cults and I think they give the legitimate study of UFOs a bad name."

Another reason believers aren't often taken seriously, Hall said, is the misconception that the word "UFO" somehow implies that "little green men" are involved.

"When you talk about UFOs there's a societal response to that," Hall said. "People are going to be viewed as believing in ghosts or something that's unrealistic."

Memories of encounter

Lacey resident Russell L. Black knows just how skeptical most people become at the mention of words such as "alien" or "UFO." Not only does Black claim to have seen at least one UFO, but he also says he has had an encounter with an alien.

"Most people look down on people who say they've seen (an alien), but I've seen one," Black said. "It's a story to tell over the campfire."

Agreeing to tell his story over the telephone instead, Black described the events leading up to an encounter in Lake Clark, Alaska, nearly two decades ago.

Black, who was 6 at the time, was home alone with his brother and sister in a cabin 250 miles south-west of Anchorage. That night, they awoke to the sounds of footsteps in the living room. As he and his siblings clutched their blankets, Black said, he watched through squinted eyes as the door to the bedroom opened slowly.

"A very large head with small beady black eyes appeared in the open bedroom door," Black recalled. "It appeared to be no more than 3 feet high and seemed curious because it never took its eyes off of us."

Black's older sister, Sandra, who also lives in Lacey, said she also remembers the encounter.

"It had a huge head," she recalled. "It was this big beady-eyed-looking thing with a big bulgy head and no hair ... I just screamed as loud as I could like I was having a nightmare and it just started running."

The siblings never did learn what it was they saw in Alaska, and neither claims to know for certain, but, like Mickelson and Johansen, the event forever colored their opinions of the paranormal.

"I'm not there to try and convince anyone of my story. I just tell it," says Russell Black. "I'm just as clueless as the next guy. It's pretty narrow-minded to think that we're the only ones around in the universe. It's just such a vast amount of space."

SKYWATCH DIARY

By CAROL BAKER

Well, the excitement continues this week with sighting reports coming in on a regular basis and local media expressing an interest. Everyone's interest is piqued, apparently, and we have not had this much activity in this area in quite a while.

I received a cellular phone call on the afternoon of Wednesday, February 4 from Vicki Lyons. She was driving west on I-10 toward Mobile. It was 3:55 p.m. on an absolutely clear, cloudless winter afternoon. Winds were out of the northwest at about fifteen miles per hour. Driving through an area of Pine Forest, with virtually no landmarks, she was passing the vicinity of mile marker 61, when she saw a perfectly round silver ball-shaped object in the southwestern sky. It was clearly visible and contrasted against the clear, brilliant blue sky. "It looked like a sterling silver marble hanging in the sky," Vicki told me. She estimated that the object was approximately one mile away from her at an approximate fifteen degree angle from the horizon (she actually describes the elevation as being approximately twice that of the height of the nearby treeline). She describes the size as being comparable to an aspirin at arm's length. As she observed this object, suddenly and with no precursor it took off toward the north at tremendous speed, crossing I-10 and disappearing almost instantly. "It took off at a tremendously fast speed ... the speed of the object was indescribable!!! My eyes could hardly follow it—just too fast for human eyes. It looked like a blur and then was gone," Vicki told me. Shortly afterward, she saw a commercial airplane flying in the same area of sky and because of the clearness of the day, states that she could "easily and clearly identify it as a plane, wings, and tail clearly outlined against the sky."

Interestingly, just a few days later, Pat Crumbley, also a co-director of Project Awareness, as is Vicki Lyons, had a similar daylight sighting. Pat was driving east on I-10 on the afternoon of February 11, 1998 on her way to Niceville, FL from her home in Spanish Fort, Alabama. Her husband Buddy was driving and they had just passed the Milton, Florida exit. Pat states, "I was talking to Buddy, facing him when something caught my eye and I looked up. About fifteen degrees above the horizon Pat observed a silver ball-shaped object about one half inch in diameter at arm's length. She states, 'I was

stunned, it took a couple of seconds to say 'Buddy look! Buddy look!'" By the time she had said that, and Buddy had turned to look, the object has disappeared. Pat also states that soon after the disappearance of the silver ball-shaped object, an airplane flew through the same area of sky and she could clearly discern that this was an airplane, since she was able to see the wings on it.

In the midst of all these reports coming in, on Monday night, February 10, 1998, our local FOX Television affiliate station out of Mobile, Alabama, WALA-Channel 10 aired a video of a UFO that had been taken by a Robertsdale, Alabama couple, Christie and Scott Edwards. The video shown was shot by the Robertsdale couple on February 7, 1998 at 7:06 a.m. The witnesses reported also seeing the same UFO as is shown on the video on February 10, the day the story aired. Christie Edwards is quoted as saying "Looks like just a bright light, but it is real big and it is nothing I've ever seen before." The National Weather Service in Mobile states that the object could be a weather balloon or a planet. The Robertsdale Police Department has urged anyone who is concerned about this sighting to give them a call. The video shows a very bright, silver metallic spherical object with a dark bottom. It was difficult to tell from the video if the object was moving in the sky, or if the apparent movement was due to camera movement, and this issue was not addressed in the television report. The object shown on this video closely resembles the object that was captured on video by Tony James, an English researcher, during his visit to Gulf Breeze in 1995 as well as that on Dennis Ubaldi's December 1997 video which was discussed in a recent Skywatch Diary. Other comparisons have been made to the objects shown on videos coming out of Mexico in recent years.

As a result of this video and all of the recent local activity, Whitley Strieber and Vicki Lyons were featured on the Art Bell show on February 10, 1998 discussing the video and recent sightings in the area and the Art Bell website has a still photograph from the video as well as real time audio of the show on which Whitley and Vicki were featured. You can access the Art Bell website at: <http://www.artbell.com>.

As a footnote to all this local activity, there have been reports of skyquakes in the area again. As many of you who keep up with Gulf Coast UFO sightings will remember, we

have often had skyquakes in association with sightings in the past. The Mobile Press Register ran an article in their Friday, February 6 issue. The headline "Explosion likely was sonic boom" was followed up by, "But none of officials asked can be certain." Just after noon on Thursday, February 8, a "rattle and boom" that shook downtown Mobile and the Theodore, Alabama area caused 911 phone lines to become busy. This was a "double boom" event, with the first timed at approximately 12:05 p.m. and the second at about 12:20 p.m., emergency phone lines in Mobile received a dozen or so calls as did the Sheriff's Departments in an area from Grand Bay in southern Mobile County to Citronelle in the north. There were many reports of walls shaking and merchandise crashing from shelves in local businesses. Meteorologists with the National Weather Service in Mobile stated that the booms were not caused by thunder or any other weather-related phenomena. A spokesperson for the U.S. Geological Survey in Golden, Colorado stated that the booms were not related to an earthquake. The U.S. Geological Survey have installed several seismological instruments in the area following the earthquake activity last year. Some people speculated that there were "sonic" booms generated by aircraft flying in the area. Bates Field in Mobile reported no aircraft with such capabilities flying from there, and the Naval Air Station Pensacola Operations Office stated that while they have been flying a lot of training missions, they had only been at subsonic speeds. The same is true for the Air Force out of Keesler AFB, in Biloxi, Mississippi. A public affairs officer for Eglin AFB in Florida also stated that there were no missions in the area at that time, and that there had been no supersonic flights in the area for sometime. The only way they could have been sonic booms, was if they were generated by aircraft flying at high altitude between bases in Florida and Texas. The weather conditions were apparently generated by aircraft flying at high altitude between bases in Florida and Texas. The weather conditions were apparently conducive to the amplification of a sonic boom. However, none of these explanations are conclusive.

If you wish to contact me, please e-mail me at Cbakewd@aol.com or write to me at P.O. Box 17152, Pensacola, FL 32522-7152, thank you. And remember - Keep Looking Up!

greater l.a.

Spacemen Land at Vegas Airport

Conspiracy theorists, secret agents and space abductees, take note: Soon you won't need to drive far out into the desert to reach the mysterious Area 51.

The super-secret Air Force base cum cultural lightning rod for all things alien has inspired a themed shopping experience in Las Vegas' new \$300-million airport terminal, which opens June 15. Shoppers will be able to browse under hovering spacecraft among "Star Trek" videos and glowing jewelry as lifelike space creatures peer over their shoulders.

The real Area 51, 100 miles north of Las Vegas, attracts UFO buffs worldwide. Aficionados of unexplained phenomena take state Route 375—Nevada's official "Extraterrestrial Highway"—to reach the parched outpost of Rachel. They gather there at the Little A'Le'Inn tavern and motel to watch lights moving in the night sky. Key scenes of "Independence Day" were set there.

McCarran International Airport's Area 51 is in the east wing of the spacious new terminal with the unglamorous name D Gates—no, not after the former L.A. police chief, but because the A, B and C gates were there first. This Area 51 will

be within the Nevada Desert shopping zone, sprawling between a bank of slot machines and the duty-free shops.

Kathy Hussey, an executive of airport concessionaire W.H. Smith Inc., said she had been pondering possible shopping themes for the new

terminal toward the future store. She plans to sell educational space videos, alien-infested lava lamps and copies of the definitive reference work, "Area 51 Viewer's Guide" by Glenn Campbell, a researcher who has done a lot to make the shadowy place a cultural icon in



The new shopping area caters to tourist interest in Area 51, believed to be an extraterrestrial hot spot.

terminal when she happened upon an air show at Nellis AFB. There she saw the light. Actually, she spotted merchants from Rachel selling Area 51 merchandise. She hurried back to the office to contact vendors.

"There is so much alien stuff out there," she said as construction workers hauled an ungainly model flying-saucer through the unfinished

recent years.

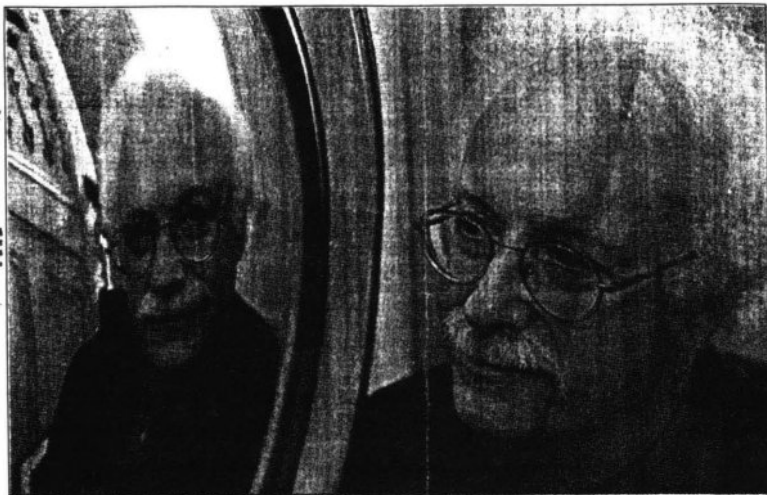
Meanwhile, longtime Las Vegas writer-editor Jim Barrows said he has heard word of another, even more mysterious base out in the desert. Area 58.

"Just mention Area 58 now and people go ballistic," he said.

—MICHAEL P. LUCAS

Temple professor warns: Truth is out there

In his latest book, respected, tenured David M. Jacobs, the "foremost expert" on aliens, says they do not come with benign intent.



For The Inquirer / JILL ANNA GREENBERG

David M. Jacobs, associate professor of history, specializing in 20th-century America, has studied UFOs since 1965 and appears regularly on talk shows.

izing in 20th-century America, is also, according to his publisher, "the world's foremost expert on the UFO and abduction phenomenon."

A man of medium height, with a halo of white hair and a white moustache, he speaks with the confidence of a man who knows his subject. He's been studying UFOs since 1965. He's written two previous books on the subject. He appears regularly on the TV talk show circuit — *Larry King Live*, Howard Stern, *Geraldo*, A&E, the Learning Channel, the Discovery Channel. He recently returned from the sixth annual international UFO conference sponsored by the Republic of San Marino.

Jacobs started studying UFOs as a student at the University of California at Los Angeles, where he majored in history. In 1973, he obtained a master's degree in history at the University of Wisconsin and, later, his doctorate, with a dissertation on the UFO controversy.

In *The Threat*, Jacobs recounts the abduction experiences that people he's interviewed have described. He writes that he has used hypnosis in more than 700 abduction investigations. He learned it on his own: "Doing hypnosis is the easiest thing in the world."

There is something, for example, that he calls "mindscam," in which the abductors stare into the abductees' eyes at a distance of a few inches or less, sometimes provoking intense sexual arousal in both men and women.

A woman Jacobs calls "Laura" said that one night she was lying in bed with her

husband when five of these creatures entered the bedroom, and one of them got on top of her. There was nothing she could do to stop him.

"Donna," when she was 20, met a hybrid on a beach in Maine. He was wearing a T-shirt and jeans, and his hair was down past his ears. He began kissing her, she recalled, and "you feel your brain exploding and your toes tingling and everything in between absolutely — firecrackers!"

Unfortunately, all we have to go on is Laura's and Donna's word. All we have to go on in all the cases that Jacobs describes is what the people involved told him.

"Anecdotal evidence is not evidence at all," says James Randi, a professional magician, also known as the Amazing Randi, who has gone around the world debunking claims of the paranormal, supernatural and occult.

Randi, who received a MacArthur Foundation award for his work in investigating such claims, says he has offered a million dollars "for the performance of any paranormal, supernatural or occult phenomenon under proper observing conditions, and that includes contact with alien beings from nonterrestrial sources." The money, he says, is in negotiable bonds at Goldman Sachs in New York. So far, no claimants.

What about it, professor? There's a million dollars waiting for you.

Randi, Jacobs says, is like a lot of other critics who "have done absolutely no research whatsoever."

Even if we had an ashtray stamped "made in Mars," Jacobs

contends, the skeptics would claim it had been made on earth. "Ultimately, what you need is an alien. You need one of these little guys wiggling on the end of a pole, and then you would have something that would be convincing."

What about photographs? Didn't it occur to any of these people who claim multiple abductions to have a camera handy the next time?

The problem, he explains, is that there's a consciousness alteration at the beginning of every abduction that renders the abductee passive.

Sure, people hijacked aboard those spacecraft have picked up things. But see, they're naked, so there's no place to hide them.

How is it, a Wall Street Journal reviewer of *The Threat* wondered, that the aliens always seem to abduct people no one's ever heard of? Why don't they abduct somebody important, like Alan Greenspan or Kathie Lee Gifford?

"The answer," says Jacobs, "is that they do." Like who? "Can't tell you. If the people want to come forward, they will. . . I cannot give you names right now."

Jacobs, like many UFO researchers, contends that the government, along with the media and the scientific community, determined long

ago that the phenomenon had no objective reality. So "because the normal avenues of academic discourse have been closed to UFO researchers," he said, "they have been forced to take to the popular culture airways to bring their message."

By Leonard W. Boasberg
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

So you're walking down Walnut Street and you see this guy coming toward you, and he looks like an attorney or maybe an accountant.

Well, maybe he is, or maybe he's one of those hybrid alien/humans that Temple University professor David M. Jacobs writes about in *The Threat*, just published by Simon & Schuster.

There are thousands of these beings, he contends. They could be anyone. "Some hybrids look really quite human," Jacobs said in a recent interview in his Victorian-style home near Chestnut Hill.

But many look like the kind of extraterrestrials you've seen in movies and trash tabloids. That's the way people have described them to Jacobs: large heads; big black eyes; no hair, ears or nose; slits for mouths; thin arms and legs; grayish bodies.

What about that young woman taking her baby out for a stroll in Rittenhouse Square? Could she be one? "I do not think they are walking among us," Jacobs says, "or that they have a job at the 7-Eleven, or something like that."

What the young woman might be,

"There are no alien spaceships. There never have been," said Robert Baker, emeritus professor of psychology at the University of Kentucky. "There's absolutely no respectable scientific evidence of any alien invasion or that aliens have abducted any human being."

How then does he explain how people who come from all walks of life have told Jacobs such similar stories? Of being abducted by aliens from outer space?

It's a phenomenon, well-known to psychiatrists and psychologists, called "sleep paralysis" — people wake up in the middle of the night, find themselves paralyzed, and have psychological experiences in which they think their dreams are real, Baker said.

"It's a universal human experience that has been reported from the beginning of time," he said.

At Temple, Jacobs, in addition to his main job of teaching 20th-century American history, also conducts a course called "UFOs in American Society," in the American studies program. He believes it's the only course on UFOs taught at any American university, and he's pretty sure there's nothing of the kind anywhere else in the real world.

He teaches both sides of the issue, he says, including required reading of a debunking book by Philip Klass, *UFO Abductions: A Dangerous Game*, "that contends I'm a total jerk."

Jacobs' colleagues in the Temple history department speak highly of his teaching. There is, said Morris Vogel, former department chair, "a fundamental disconnect between

though, is one of the thousands of people who, according to Jacobs, have been abducted by extraterrestrial beings and taken onto spaceships, stripped, and used for experimental procedures, including the removal of ova or sperm.

And the baby? Don't ask. Embarrassing. Frightening. Jacobs himself is frightened.

The aliens from outer space, he contends, do not come to earth with benign motives. On the contrary. They have an agenda. As he describes in *The Threat*, with the subtitle *The Secret Agenda: What the Aliens Really Want . . . and How They Plan to Get It*, the motive is nothing less than "the systematic and clandestine physiological exploitation, and perhaps alteration, of human beings for the purposes of passing on their genetic capabilities to progeny who will integrate into the human society and, without doubt, control it."

Whew! And it may be too late to stop them. "My own complacency is long gone, replaced," he writes, "by a sense of profound apprehension and even dread."

Jacobs, 55, a tenured associate professor of history at Temple, special-

the David Jacobs of *The Threat* and who is on Howard Stern and the David Jacobs we see every day as a colleague and a teacher. In the classroom, he's a gifted instructor who covers the same 19th and 20th century United States in the way most of his colleagues do . . . and differs from us only in doing that teaching with more success."

Jacobs admits he's never seen one of these extraterrestrials himself, but he knows they exist. How can he be sure they haven't installed thoughts in his mind? Laughing, Jacobs dismisses the question. He knows that many people, including some of his colleagues, think he's a nutcase.

"I've learned to accept that," he says. It's a sacrifice he makes to "have the opportunity to make a contribution in a field of potentially surpassing importance."

"You have to remember," he says seriously, "that I've come to these conclusions after an adult lifetime of studying this subject, and I've come to them with full realization of how fringy they are, of how off-to-the-side they are. I've come to them with the full realization of the damage it does to my career and to my credibility. And yet, as an academic and as a person who is intellectually honest, I feel I must go where the evidence leads me."

POST-DISPATCH, St. Louis, MO - June 14, 1998 CR: B. Soetebier

Piedmont, Mo., residents mark UFO anniversary

'I know that I saw something there,' science teacher says

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PIEDMONT, Mo. — It was in 1973 that strange lights and objects first appeared in the sky above Piedmont in a phenomenon that would last for seven years.

A quarter of a century later, no one knows exactly what residents saw, although many in this small, southeastern Missouri town still believe they were seeing UFOs.

"I know that I saw something

there," said Joe King, a middle school science teacher. "What it was and what it wasn't, I have no idea."

In his book "Project Identification," Harley Rutledge reported 157 sightings of 178 unidentified flying objects, mainly in the Piedmont area, from 1973 to 1980.

Rutledge, then chairman of the Physics Department at Southeast Missouri State University, decided in March 1973 to lead an investigation of the strange happenings at Piedmont. Initially he took a few colleagues to the town to investigate reports of people seeing strange lights.

Using sophisticated telescopes, sound detectors, camera equipment and electromagnetic frequency analyzers, Rutledge helped set up 158 viewing stations. More

than 600 observers watched the sky at various times.

King, then a college student, recalled seeing lights moving in the sky.

"They weren't airplane lights," he said. "Sometimes there was more than one. We would sit out on the front porch and watch them at night."

"A couple of times the light would go off as an airplane approached. After the airplane had gone by, the light would come back on."

Although most of the Piedmont sightings involved lights, a few people reported seeing objects.

Reggie Bone, now deceased, was the basketball coach at Piedmont High School in 1973. In February 1973 Bone and five players were driving home from a tournament in

Dexter when they saw lights rotating along a tree line.

Bone told Rutledge he saw an object 50 feet off the ground, a hovering craft with a row of lights that looked like portholes.

Rutledge's book, published in 1981, summed up the project this way:

"Without doubt, our research has established that there is a UFO phenomenon, and we have conjectured about the nature of the intelligence behind the capricious UFOs. I suspect their game is to gradually create general acceptance by repeated appearances . . .

"When we understand them on a technical-scientific basis, when most of the world's inhabitants accept the reality of UFOs, then we will meet them face to face. And then we will know their mission."

SKYWATCH DIARY

By CAROL BAUER

Happy St. Patrick's Day!! Erin go Bragh!! Well, I am sure we will be hearing some reports of activity by the "little people!" One cannot help but wonder if the stories such as those of the little people in Ireland or faeries in England and Europe have any historical basis in the UFO/Abduction phenomenon. We have seen the development of descriptive frames of reference in UFO sighting reports over the years, from the earliest reports dating back into the eighteenth century with their descriptions of "coaches of fire" in the sky, to more recent reports where people are using modern day comparative descriptions to clarify their sightings. Perhaps the same is true of the descriptions employed by abductees/experiencers?

A very interesting sighting was reported to me at the beginning of February by a witness in Minotola, New Jersey. After an initial telephone call, the witness forwarded to me a full written account of his sighting together with the picture which appears adjacent to this text. His let-

ter dated February 12th, 1998 details his sighting of February 9th, 1998: "I was walking back home from my neighbor's home about 3:10 p.m. when I noticed a bright object coming out of the north sky which looked somewhat different than a normal plane or jet. I watched it for a couple of minutes and the closer it got to me the more confusing it was. I went into my house and got a pair of 7x35 binoculars and viewed it through them. My first impression was that it might be a large white bird, possibly an Egret. It was white with a faint tint of black on the edges. I watched it for a few seconds and was going to dismiss it as that, but then the object seemed to turn and reflect the sun with a very bright glare. I immediately went back into the house and put a 200mm lens on my camera and went back out and at this time it was almost directly overhead. I had time to take two pictures, and seeing that I was still unable to make out what it was I went back inside and brought out my son's telescope. I noticed at that time there was a passenger jet which seemed to be passing above

the object in a southwest direction. I then viewed the object through the eyepiece. My first impression was that it seemed to be a group of black and white balloons, but it was high in the air. I looked back into the eyepiece and focused in on them and then I saw that it was not balloons. There was one large pearl black object attached to a frame that extended back and had two larger round flat objects on each side of the frame, the sides of which were charcoal colored. In front of the first black object, which may be part of the frame, was an extended section resembling half of an arrowhead. It was only visible for about two to three minutes. It was travelling at a steady even pace from north to southeast. The entire episode took only about eight minutes and then it was out of view."

This witness contacted Maguire Air Force Base in New Jersey and discussed what he had seen with an Air Force representative there. The Air Force was apparently extremely interested in the photographs this witness may have taken of this object

and asked him to bring the film to them. He did not bring his film to the Air Force and has been working on getting the pictures developed and enlarged to enable the best possible view of this object.

The story does not end here. The witness telephoned me again on Wednesday, February 25th, 1998. To his astonishment, he had been watching the television show "Sightings" on February 24th, the previous evening, and had seen a video clip from Mexico of the exact same object that he had witnessed fly over his home on February 9th! I personally contacted the National Weather Service in Mobile, Alabama after the witness' initial telephone call to inquire as to the possibility of this being a weather balloon. I described the object from the witness' drawing and was told by the representative of the National Weather Service with whom I spoke that it was "unlike any weather balloon I have ever seen." Authorities also rule out the object being the Space Shuttle or a satellite. The witness himself contacted Nellis Air Force Base, which was men-

tioned in the report on the Sightings show. He states that the Air Force representative he spoke with there said that they were very interested in this object and particularly to hear that this witness could describe some of the superstructure of the object which, he was told, had not been visible before.

The witness and myself are extremely interested in why the Air Force are so anxious for information about this object. If there are any other witnesses to this object reading this report, or anyone who could provide any more information about it, please contact me at the address shown below. This is a very unusual object and a very interesting sighting which definitely warrants deeper and further investigation. I am hoping to show this witness' drawing and discuss the video from Mexico with Jaime Maussan, the researcher from Mexico who will be attending the upcoming Project Awareness Conference in March on Pensacola Beach. He may be able to provide more information regarding the video which the Sightings show apparently stated was "smuggled" out of Mexico. I have also contacted the "Sightings" show via e-mail regarding this situation and am awaiting a response.

If you wish to contact me, please e-mail me at Chakerswd@aol.com or write to me at P.O. Box 17152, Pensacola FL 32522-7152, thank you. And remember - Keep Looking Up!

HERALD, Everett, WA - May 28, 1998

Say it, they will come

Report of crop circles brings throng to Whidbey Island

By GEORGIE SMITH
Special to The Herald

COUPEVILLE — Curious onlookers, television media, UFO enthusiasts and crop circle experts showed up in droves Wednesday after a nationally syndicated radio talk show reported the discovery of unusual formations in barley fields just south of Coupeville.

"Basically I saw a lot of bent grass," said Port Townsend resident Mike Kenna who took an early morning ferry to Whidbey Island after hearing about the crop circles Tuesday on a late-night radio talk show.

Kenna and many others who turned out Wednesday had their curiosity aroused by Coupeville resident Kelly Sweeney, who

relayed his experience investigating a field of fallen barley alongside Highway 20 on "Coast to Coast AM." The program, hosted by Art Bell, focuses on UFOs and other tales of strange phenomena.

Sweeney said he was contacted by the radio program after he called the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle and reported he found "some kind of a pictograph" in the field.

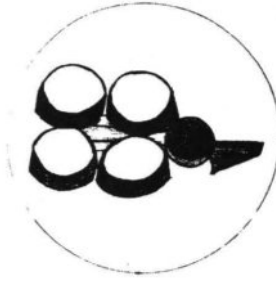
"It's almost like somebody had drawn a line," Sweeney said of the formation. "Everything inside this line is going to lie down, everything outside is going to stand up. It blew me away."

From Kenna's skepticism to Sweeney's

fascination with the field, there were a variety of opinions about what — or who — could have caused the formations.

"There are certainly intriguing similarities (with other crop circles)," said crop-circle investigator Ilyes, who goes by only one name and who rushed to Whidbey Island from Portland after receiving reports about the strange formations.

Ilyes is the national coordinator for the Center for Crop Circle Studies/U.S. Network and has traveled to England for the past



seven years investigating crop circles. She said that although she found some evidence of crop circles within the Coupeville formations, they showed definite signs of randomness not associated with the precise patterns discovered in crop circles elsewhere.

Perhaps, Ilyes theorized, there was a crop circle pattern in the fields that had been damaged by recent foul weather. But, she added, "I wouldn't bet my car on it."

Ilyes and members of the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network (MUFON) used metal rods like the wires used for water witching to test the barley fields for unusual energy fields.

Meanwhile, Coupeville farmers Don and Roger Sherman, who own the field the formation was found in, explained the bent barley to a steady stream of curious onlookers and MUFON members as a combination of overfertilizing, heavy rain and high winds, not as the work of alien beings.

When grass crops receive too much nitrogen and grow too quickly the stalk often becomes too weak to support a single blade and "lodges," or falls over, Don Sherman said. Typically farmers experience lodging every year, although this year some of their fields definitely had more lodging than normal.

"If there's extraterrestrials out there and they can figure out a way to bring my crop back to life, well then, I'm a believer," Don Sherman said.

TIMES, Washington, DC - June 30, 1998 CR: L. Bryant

Truth is out there — maybe

UFO reports merit more scrutiny, team of scientists says

REUTERS NEWS AGENCY

Some reports of UFOs might be worth a closer look, although there is no real evidence of little green men out there, a panel of scientists concluded yesterday.

The report, coming from what the panel describes as the first independent review of unidentified flying objects since 1970, says science has sorely neglected the area despite numerous reports and considerable public interest.

"It may be valuable to carefully evaluate UFO reports to extract information about unusual phenomena currently unknown to science," the experts, headed by Stanford University physicist Peter Sturrock, wrote in a report released yesterday.

"The UFO problem is not a simple one, and it is unlikely there is any simple, universal answer."

Nine scientists from institutions such as the High Altitude Observatory in Boulder, Colo., the University of New Mexico and France's University of Bordeaux looked at evidence ranging from photographs of what appear to be flying saucers to a policeman's report that his car was stopped and scanned by a hovering object shining a bright light.

"It was clear that at least a few reported incidents might have involved rare but significant phenomena such as electrical activity high above thunderstorms or rare cases of radar ducting," the reviewers wrote in their report. Ra-

dar ducting occurs when the radar signal twists around and seems to be reflected from elsewhere.

The report was posted on the Internet at www.jse.com and published in the Journal of Scientific Exploration.

"On the other hand, the review panel was not convinced that any of the evidence involved currently unknown physical processes or pointed to the involvement of an extraterrestrial intelligence. A few cases may have their origins in secret military activities."

Von Eshleman, an expert in the atmospheres of other planets who helped chair the panel, conceded the report risked being ridiculed. "We may be opening a Pandora's box of some kind," he said in a telephone interview. "But I'm a professor emeritus. I don't care."

They said some of the evidence presented to them was shaky, but this was in part because no one bothered to make a proper scientific investigation.

A 1968 study concluded that nothing could be gained from studying UFO reports. But the panel said technology has advanced and something might be learned from such study.

"Over the last 50 years, people throughout the world have become familiar with UFO reports. These reports have been attributed to a wide range of causes including hoaxes, hallucinations, planets, stars, meteors, cloud formations, ball lightning, secret aircraft and

extraterrestrial spacecraft," the report said.

"Despite the abundance of such reports, and despite great public interest, the scientific community has shown remarkably little interest in this topic."

This is in part because many scientists think UFO sightings have more to do with psychology than science, Mr. Sturrock's group pointed out.

They said France's space agency funded further research into such sightings and recommended that an international review agency, probably privately funded, be set up to check out the most promising reports.

Among those might be pictures taken by some Canadian tourists in British Columbia in 1984 that appear to show a flying saucer and a 1956 case in which two Royal Canadian Air Force pilots flying F-86 Sabre jets saw a bright, shiny disk and photographed it.

In 1994, near Paris, the crew of a jetliner saw a giant disk, at least 1,000 yards or about a half mile in diameter and 300 feet thick. It went fuzzy around the edges and then disappeared. Military air traffic controllers also saw the object on radar.

Even this could be explained — if someone bothered to get the evidence, Mr. Eshleman said.

"As radar waves propagate through the atmosphere they do some funny things," he said.

On Old River Road

WHAT DID TRIO SEE?

Another Unsolved UFO Mystery

They don't know what it was. Sheriff's police don't know either.

It was around 11:30 p.m. As 20-year-old Rick Montoya and his fiancée, Erin Hammack, were driving her brother Jered home along Old River Rd. they noticed it in the distance.

Erin said she didn't think anything much about the light configuration at first. But as they drove the object moved nearer until it was hovering over a water tower just east of Gleasman Rd.

"We were hoping it was a helicopter," said Erin. "The thing didn't make a sound, and it hovered eerily motionless over the tower," the trio reported to sheriff's Officer Tom Keegan.

Hammack said they couldn't make out the shape of it, but it was at least three to four times bigger than the water tower, and a bright white light was beaming at one end. She said she could see rows of flashing bright green, blue, red, yellow and orange lights moving in a left to right pattern across the middle.

Keegan noted on his report that they saw no visible windows and nothing emitting from the craft such as beams of light, rays or sparks. The car radio was off so it was unknown if there was any radio disturbance.

The startled viewers said after ten or 15 minutes, the object appeared to drift south for a short time, and then dart away at an incredible speed until it vanished from sight.

According to Winnebago County sheriff's deputies, most reports of UFOs have come from north of Rockford in the Loves Park-Machesney Park area.

Officer Tom Keegan indicated no apparent use of alcohol or drugs by Montoya or his fiancée. It was also noted that this is the second report of a sighting by Montoya.

What was it that captured this trio's attention strongly enough to prompt a call to the Sheriff's Department?

Anyone can speculate. No one can say for sure.

Feedback from readers is always appreciated.

Author, Sue Kovach to speak at local Mufon

The Pensacola/Gulf Breeze Chapter of MUFON will present Sue Kovach as the guest speaker at the Sunday, July 12th meeting from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Gulf Breeze Recreation Center, 800 Shoreline Drive. Admission is \$5.00 for members and \$7.00 for nonmembers. Sue Kovach will review her book, "Hidden Files, Law Enforcement's True Case Stories of the Unexplained and Paranormal."

In the line of duty, law enforcement officers sometimes encounter exceptional situations marked by strange or unexplainable circumstances; a brush with the occult; an encounter with psychic phenomena; UFO sightings; or mysterious events that simply can't be explained by any laws of science we know.

Author Sue Kovach has compiled such experiences from police officers across North America in her book. Police officers went on the record — many for the first time — to reveal their encounters with the paranormal, providing a unique perspective on occurrences that often have no physical evidence. As trained investigators, their observations lend higher than average credibility toward proving the existence

of phenomena that stubbornly defy explanation.

At our July meeting, Sue Kovach will discuss some astonishing cases from Hidden Files. She will also explain how she researched the cases, what it took to convince these officers to go public, the consequences suffered by some for doing so, and how these cops' experiences affected them on a personal level. She'll also talk about some cases that did not get into the book because the officers would not speak on the record, and some tantalizing new cases that officers have presented to her since the book's publication.

Sue Kovach is an investigative journalist, author and free lance TV producer. She has worked for publications such as Newsweek, the London Times, the New York Times, Playboy and Ladies Home Journal. She regularly produces segments for Fox TV's America's Most Wanted and the syndicated show Inside Edition, and has also worked for American Journal and Dateline NBC.

For more information, call Art Hufford, 438-5863; the MUFON UFO Hotline, 429-0216; or visit our web site at: <http://GulfBreezeUFOs.com>.

CHRONICLE, Houston, TX - July 5, 1998 CR: W. Theriot

MEN IN WHITE

Let science try to explain unexplained 'UFO' phenomena

Many Americans say they believe space aliens in flying saucers regularly visit this planet, and others suspect such visits. These Americans have adopted opinions unsupported by convincing evidence or personal experience.

However, there are unexplained phenomena connected with reports of unidentified flying objects, and these phenomena are the proper subject of scientific investigation. Scientists on an international panel have recommended that their colleagues overcome the fear of ridicule and study some of the unexplained physical evidence left in the wake of UFO reports.

Such evidence includes injuries to the eyes and skin of observers, burned or flattened vegetation, electronic malfunctions, etc. Marfa, in West Texas, is one site of potentially fertile investigation to explain the off-and-on appearance of strange lights and magnetic disturbances.

The public, however, must bear in mind that there is a vast difference between examination of evidence by field investigators and lab-coated technicians and the fictional escapades of agents Mulder and Scully in *The X-Files*. The existence of natural phenomena that re-

sist scientific explanation is not sufficient proof of flying saucers and creatures from another galaxy. ("We come in peace. Take me to your leader.")

In science and mathematics, the simplest explanation or solution to a problem is invariably the most correct one. Interstellar travel by outer space creatures is not a simple explanation for anything. It requires the assumption that the universe contains other civilizations, that they have developed the ability to travel faster than the speed of light, that they have discovered materials immune to great heat and friction, and that they have vehicles that can appear and disappear instantly.

One must also assume that all these highly advanced and powerful creatures are too shy to appear before large numbers of sober Americans with good eyesight and stable personalities.

It is the role of science to examine the unexplained and explain the mysterious. Investigating the residue of various UFO sightings, real or imagined, could expand the store of human knowledge and might help to wean Americans from their gullible readiness to leap to fanciful conclusions.

Pair of educators report seeing mysterious flying object

By Michael G. Walsh
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

Two North Muskegon educators received a lesson in the unknown late Thursday when something they can't explain drifted over a remote area of northern Muskegon County.

North Muskegon sixth-graders staying at Camp Pandalouan in Blue Lake Township were asleep in cabins Thursday night as principal John Weaver and teacher Michael Schanhals sat outside talking.

About 10:30 p.m., as starlight glinted on a backdrop of clear dark skies, something floated into view

above the treetops at the camp, which is in the Manistee National Forest.

"It was huge, it was up there and it didn't make a sound," Weaver said. "It looked like a flying paramecium (a microscopic animal)."

Both Weaver, 43, and Schanhals, 29, said the object was cylindrically shaped. Lights were visible at the front and back, but the middle glowed with a dull opaque light.

"It gave the impression of shimmering, or gossamer," Weaver said. "There was something between the two lights."

Schanhals said he and Weaver watched the object that made no sound

for about 15 seconds as it drifted in a south-to-north path.

"It was moving slowly. The lights seemed to be dimming and receding and then we lost sight of it," Schanhals said. "It didn't seem to be solid. It seemed like you could see through it. It was strange."

Weaver and Schanhals said they couldn't determine how far away the object was nor its size. They held their arms out in front of them to frame the object between their fingers. It appeared to be about 3 inches long as compared to their fingers, they said.

"We saw a lot of other things — jets,

satellites and planets," Weaver said. "But this thing flew right over our heads. Looking right up underneath, it was shiny."

Weaver said he and Schanhals got a strange feeling as the object disappeared but they continued to watch the sky for its return.

"We had the heebie-jeebies by then," Weaver said. "But we spent the rest of night, until about 12:30 (a.m.), waiting for this thing to float by again...It was most weird."

Nate McClure, executive director of

the Muskegon County 911 Dispatch service, said his operators reported no UFO calls that night.

Still, Weaver said, he'd like some answers.

"I hope we hear from someone else," he said. "I could not explain this one."

McClure said there is probably a natural explanation for the sighting.

"For example, (the other night) I

saw a meteorite," McClure said. "It got very bright, then dim, then that was the end of it. Maybe that was (what the educators saw)."

The Chronicle receives numerous UFO-sighting calls each year. Most are by single observers who saw something unusual in the night sky. These tend to be explainable astronomical events.

But in March 1994, dozens of

West Michigan residents from midstate through Holland reported seeing a glowing cylindrical object that pulsed with light as it drifted in a southwesterly direction at treetop level.

At the same time, a National Weather Service radar operator tracked the object, and described what he saw to authorities who recorded the conversation on a 911 tape.

"Oh my God, what is this?" radar operator Jack Bushong Jr. said as the object — solid and moving — zipped from South Haven to 10 miles west of the city, over Lake Michigan, in 10 seconds and disappeared.

"It's not something that is made up," Holland Police Sgt. Jeffrey Velthouse said in a later interview. "It happened."

MACOMB DAILY, Mt. Clemens, MI - June 30, 1998 CR: C. Grusinski

Visitors?

■ International experts say UFO sightings merit more study.

By Mitch Hotts
Macomb Daily Staff Writer

Are we alone in this universe, or is there another form of intelligent life out there, somewhere?

A national study by a team of international scientists found physical evidence in some UFO sightings deserves serious scientific review.

And some Macomb County residents say "it's about time."

"I certainly feel it's about time our government came clean with all of the information they've been holding back," said Jack Thompson, associate dean of design engineering at Macomb Community College.

Thompson, a Warren resident, spent



Macomb Daily staff photo by David Dalton

Jack Thompson, an associate dean at Macomb Community College, said it's likely the government has guarded secrets about UFOs.

years chasing down a flurry of UFO sighting in Macomb County and has visited Roswell, N.M., where a flying saucer reportedly crashed in a cattle ranch.

"I've known there was something to these reports for 30 years now. There's just too much evidence, too many folks with some unique experiences. We need to know," Thompson said.

Others, such as Chester Grusinski of Clinton Township, had real-life encounters with something unusual that caused them to believe that there is an unearthly presence to be found.

"My best guess is there is something unknown to us, people who are not human beings that look like us. I think we will know a lot more in the next year or so," Grusinski said.

The group of scientists, convened in San Francisco to conduct an independent review of UFO phenomena, found no solid proof that extraterrestrial life exists.

But the nine-member panel said a variety of reports — ranging from

Macomb County UFO sightings listed in Project Blue Book

■ March 3, 1950: Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Witness: 1st Lt. Frank Mattison. One intense, dull yellowish light descended vertically then flew straight and level very fast for four minutes.

■ April 27, 1952: Roseville. Witnesses: H.A. Freytag and three male relatives, including a minister. One silver, oval object descended and stopped. Two silver cigar-shaped objects appeared, one departing to the east and one to the west. A third object flew by a high speed. Sighting lasted 45 minutes.

■ July 3, 1952: SANG. Unidentified witnesses. Two big lights, estimated at 20 feet in diameter, flew

straight and level at tremendous speed.

■ July 27, 1952: SANG. Witnesses: Three B-29 bomber crewmen on ground. Many round, white objects flew straight and level, very fast. Each was seen for about 30 seconds.

■ Aug. 17, 1958: Warren. Witness: A.D. Chisholm. One extremely bright object shaped first like a bell, then like a saucer, hovered for five minutes, flipped over and sped away. Sighting lasted six to 10 minutes.

Source: Project Blue Book, a U.S. Air Force program investigating UFOs in 1969.

burns on the skin of supposed UFO witnesses to unusual damage to vegetation — remain unexplained.

The 50-page study, which brought

together astronomers, physicists and experts in other scientific disciplines, will appear in the summer issue of Journal of Scientific Explora-

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - July 1, 1998

A little fantasy never hurt

LOS ANGELES TIMES

It seemed like a promotional stunt for "The X-Files" movie: an international panel of respected scientists calling for "serious scientific study" of UFO-related phenomena. Recipients half-expected to find a "Just kidding!" buried in the 50-page report, issued Monday.

But the panel—composed of members from leading universities like Stanford, Princeton and Cornell—was cosmically serious, concluding that "it may be valuable to carefully evaluate UFO reports to extract information about unusual phenomena currently unknown to science."

For example, the panel wants to know what happened in 1994 when an airplane crew and a military radar operator reported "a gigantic disk" more than 3,000 feet wide hovering over Paris. That doesn't

mean the panelists believe in flying saucers. But they're rightly curious about what makes people think they are seeing something from outer space.

Not that UFO theories will wither in the light of science, for the lure of the unknown seems eternal. Scientific debunking, in fact, has tended to inspire rather than suppress UFO theories—witness all the true-believer books, articles and movies that followed a science panel's 1968 conclusion that no flying saucer had crashed near Roswell, N.M., in 1947. And even the best scientific studies are unlikely to dissuade us from the occasional belief that the colleague in the next chair is an extragalactic alien. Perhaps, as "The X-Files" creator Chris Carter puts it, science will never be able to explain all mysteries. Actually, that's a relief.

ration. It was financed by philanthropist Laurance Rockefeller.

Panel members examined a 1981 photograph taken by a family on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. It showed a silver, oval-shaped object that has a glow and brightness consistent with a reflecting metal object. Scientists were unable to rule out a photographic hoax.

Another sighting, near Paris in 1994, came from an airline captain, co-pilot and flight attendant. All reported seeing an object resembling a gigantic disk with fuzzy edges. Swiss radar detected the object for 50 seconds.

"It is a puzzle," said Stanford University physicist Peter Sturrock, a member of the San Francisco panel.

In addition to reports of strange-looking damaged vegetation, the scientists reviewed ground traces of soil disturbance and physiological effects on witnesses such as marks, memory loss and double vision.

But skeptics said the study did not include any convincing evidence about UFOs. And the panel members may have a vested interest, according to the Committee for

Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.

"Many of these people are editors of journals that have a skewed outlook and are believers of the phenomena," CSICP spokesman Matthew Nisbett said. "And the timing comes a week after the movie, 'X-Files' came out, so there's a lot of popular interest in the subject."

"But I must ask: Where's the news? What are they adding to the discussion? I have yet to see anything," Nisbett said.

Certainly national interest in UFOs seems to be at an all-time high. A recent Time magazine poll found 34 percent of Americans believe intelligent beings from other planets have visited Earth.

Grusinski, a Clinton Township auto shop worker, agrees.

He was an 18-year-old Navy seaman aboard the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1958 says he saw a glowing, cigar-shaped figure, 100 feet long, approach the ship. When it flew off, Grusinski says he felt heat on his skin.

He has sought out witnesses, collected documents from witnesses and examined photographs.

"I get teased at work about this all the time," Grusinski said. "But I've been told there will be some Congressional hearings on the subject soon. Maybe there's more proof yet to come."

Associated Press contributed to this report.



FOREIGN NEWS

[All British clippings courtesy of Timothy Good, unless otherwise credited.]

Yukon UFO sightings has researcher interested

By JOHN McHUTCHION
Star Reporter

Martin Jasek is a collector. But his interest isn't in stamps, coins or hockey cards.

Jasek is a collector of information on unidentified flying objects.

For the past two years, he's been compiling data on sightings of unexplained phenomenon in the territory.

Now, the 35-year-old man is appealing to the general public to offer their stories of strange things they've seen in the Yukon.

Jasek and Lorraine Bretlyn are trying to document incidents of UFOs in the territory. The information they gather is forwarded to Winnipeg, where Chris Rutkowski, research coordinator for a group called Ufology Research of Manitoba, compiles the data into a report on UFO incidents from across Canada. In 1997, 284 sightings were reported across the country.



MARTIN JASEK

Last year, Jasek and Bretlyn reported eight UFO incidents in the territory alone.

"If you dig into the cases, you find

that an overwhelming number of them are unexplainable... in a conventional sense," Jasek said in an interview this week.

That doesn't mean Earth is being visited by aliens, but merely that some of the cases have left people baffled.

When Jasek and Bretlyn received a report of a UFO, they conducted interviews with the people who reported it. In one case, Jasek said, a family which saw something on March 30, 1997 has been interviewed three times.

Jasek related that a mother and her three kids were visiting Takhini Hot Springs for a swim. They were headed home to Whitehorse, and almost to the Takhini River Bridge, when they noticed a white light about the size of a satellite dish on the riverbank. The family reported that the object followed them all the way down the Mayo Road and Alaska Highway to Whitehorse. When the mother last saw it, the object was apparently heading off towards Grey Mountain.

"The topic deserves serious exploration."

- Martin Jasek

"They (the mother and children) don't know what it is and they're just totally amazed," said Jasek, adding that he doesn't think the family could have made up the story and recounted it to him in elaborate detail.

Jasek has gone as far as visiting the Takhini River Bridge to take photographs and hopes to revisit the site at some point with the family.

An employee of the federal government, Jasek said he developed his interest in UFOs after seeing some doc-

umentaries on the topic. A five-year resident of the territory, Jasek, however, hasn't seen any unexplained objects himself yet.

He believes that only one in 10 potential UFO sightings are ever reported, and that scientists should make more of an effort to study them.

Scientists tend to shy away from UFO study out of concern for their reputation, said Jasek.

"The topic deserves serious exploration."

One might expect that people would dismiss UFO investigators as people who may have watched one too many episodes of the X-files. But Jasek said that's not what he's encountered. People here seem more receptive to UFO work now than they may have been in the past, he said.

Anybody who wants to report a UFO sighting can call Jasek at 633-2472 or Bretlyn at 667-4680. Names of people who call will remain confidential.

WHAT'S ON BOOKS

Inside story

Brian Paine, editor of *Unexplained Kent*, has a down-to-earth meeting with Timothy Good, right, who was educated at King's School, Canterbury and is author of a controversial book, *Alien Base*



Edited by Deborah Penn

Are aliens based here on Earth?

YOU have to hand it to the aliens - they recognise a nice little place for a base when they see one.

Take Puerto Rico, for example. Lazing in the Caribbean, close to the fashionable holiday haven of the Dominican Republic, this island in the sun is, seemingly, a hot-bed of activity for all manner of strange visitors.

Timothy Good, who has been investigating the extraterrestrial enigma for

nigh on 40 years, says aliens are working and living in a huge underground base on the island.

"There is no question that, since the 1950s, Puerto Rico has seen a proliferation of different types of entities and UFO sightings," said this son of an RAF officer. "I have been there four or five times now and I am satisfied that many of the witnesses are telling the truth."

He reckons Puerto Rico is just one of several alien bases in the world, although, thankfully, the UK is not on his list.

Timothy's own base is Beckenham where he lives with his German girlfriend, Dorothee. They share two flats in a quiet corner of town - he filled up the first with books and cuttings about UFOs, so he had to buy the facing one across the landing.

Tall, with well-chiselled features and looking younger than his 56 years, Timothy is deadly serious about his conclusion that Planet Earth has been visited and used, perhaps for many thousands of years, by several species of aliens, both benign and malign. In fact, he thinks as many as a dozen races, some with features similar to ours, have landed: "My feeling is that, at various stages of our evolution, we may have been colonised to a certain degree."

Twice in his life he thinks he has been in the presence of aliens. The first occasion was in 1963 in California while touring with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. He saw someone he described as "exceptional in appearance," a petite woman with extremely pale skin.

He transmitted the thought, "Are you from somewhere else?" and the woman responded by coming over to his cafe table. She looked at him, bowed gracefully, smiled and then walked out.

Four years later, in New York, he again tried the thought test and this time a smartly suited man he described as "straight out of Madison Avenue," with tanned skin, grey-green eyes and aged about 35, came and sat beside him. "In my mind I asked him if he was from another world and, if so, to indicate this by placing his right index finger on the right side of his nose. No sooner had I thought it, than he did just that."

"I regret to this day that I did not engage him in a conversation. I just sat there like a lemon. After a few minutes, he got up, looked at me very seriously and then walked away."

Close encounters, the stories about Puerto Rico and reports by military personnel are all to be found in this thought-provoking book. Some of the most unnerving cases involve abductions.

● *Alien Base* is published by Century (£16.99).

WOKING INFORMER, Brocklands, England - Feb. 20, 1998



WATCH THE SKIES: Mandy Robinson (below) spotted lights hovering over Brooklands

FROM BEYOND THE STORES

SUPERMARKET shoppers witnessed a UFO light up the sky last Wednesday, hovering eerily over Brooklands.

Mandy Robinson, 26, a cartoonist from Cobham, was driving her boyfriend home at 8pm when she was blinded by a bright white light.

She said: "I did a double-take and cried out 'Oh my god' at what looked like a flying saucer."

"I pulled over and got out to get a better look. It kept disappearing and appearing again at a different place."

"I was shaking from head to foot and all I could think was 'I hope I get

UFO spotted at Tesco

abducted by aliens'. "I was looking at my watch to check whether I had lost any time."

A barber - who would identify himself only as Mark - was at home with four friends in Oyster Lane, Byfleet, when he saw strange lights, at the same time as Mandy.

"We all saw a cigar-shaped thing lit with an orange glow," he said.

"At first I thought it was a balloon, but it kept vanishing then reappearing."

"It moved six miles in the blink of an eye then just hovered. It was really strange."

Fairoaks airport, in Chobham, denies all knowledge of the craft. Spokesman Gareth Aggett said: "It certainly wasn't one of ours. If it had landed here, we'd have charged them."



UFO group investigates report of object over city

CORNWALL'S UFO Research Group has reported a sighting of an unusual cylindrical object in the sky over Truro on Tuesday. The group was contacted by a woman who says she saw the UFO between 4pm and 4.15pm while waiting in her car for her son to come out of Trevelyan School. "It was a grey, cloudy sky, and she saw the black, cylinder shape between two houses. It had no tail fin and no wings," said David Gillham of the UFO research group. He said the woman's son had also seen the object from the school football field. Mr Gillham would be interested to hear from anyone else who saw the UFO and he can be contacted on 01872 276381.

WEST BRITON, Truro, England - March 26, 1998

UFOs OVER CHESHIRE

FLYING saucer spotters are looking to the skies after a spate of UFO sightings in Northwich has sparked fresh interest in the phenomenon.

The British Unidentified Flying Objects Studies Centre (BUFOSC) has been set up in the town by 44-year-old former psychiatric nurse Eric Morris to thoroughly investigate and research all reported UFO sightings.

It is based at his home in Greenall Road after he moved from Winsford where he has been holding regular meetings for several years.

Eric said: 'There has been a rise in the number of reported sightings of UFOs in this area and local interest is increasing.'

There have been two mysterious sightings reported in the past month.

One was on January 11 at the Sandybrow crossroads of the A54 and A49 at Oakmere. A man from North Wales was travelling to Weaverham to visit his girlfriend when he saw a strange dark grey triangular object in the sky at around 1pm.

The most recent sighting happened on January 31 near Oulton Park and was reported by a couple who were driving to Shrewsbury. They also reported seeing a triangular-shaped object.

'Both of these cases are still being investigated but are typical of recent reports of UFO activity in the area,' says Eric.

The sightings are nothing like as bizarre as reports of 'alien abductions' which BUFOSC members are also investigating. They include a case in North Wales in September 1994 where a young man was missing for two hours.

Due to the fear of ridicule, his mystify-

ing tale has only recently been told. He was aged 17 at the time and was cycling home through the hills when he heard the sound of trees crashing down in the distance and the ground began to vibrate.

He was alarmed by the feeling of something swooping over his head and he dismounted from his bike. He claims he saw a large silver ball hovering over the mountainside which then materialised into a futuristic looking space craft. He then describes an encounter with two aliens with whom he was able to telepathically communicate.

After the incident he drew pictures of the two tall creatures.

'I am fascinated by reports of this kind and try to investigate each case fully and, if possible, find rational explanations,' said Eric. 'In this case I was able to discover factual evidence to back up the account.'

The research includes regular contact with organisations such as the Ministry of Defence and Manchester Airport who can both often offer logical explanations for UFO sightings.

'In the end only about 10 per cent of reported sightings remain unsolved,' explains Eric.

The British Unidentified Flying Objects Studies Centre holds regular monthly meetings at the Wings Club in Station Road, Northwich as well as organising sky watches and investigative trips. At the latest meet more than 40 people attended and many said they had also recently seen triangular-shaped UFOs.

There are also plans for a Channel Four documentary on BUFOSC's work for early next year. Eric Morris would like to hear about any sightings. He can be contacted by ringing 330567.

Spotters look to the sky after spate of sightings over town



EYE SPY: Scanning the skies, Northwich UFO expert Eric Morris. 0782C7A

Couple spot UFO flying over town

When Kay Landon looked into the night sky she couldn't quite explain what she saw.

After studying the object for three minutes from the garden of her home in Willowbrook Drive, Cavendish Park, Cheltenham, she could only come up with one explanation - a UFO.

She said: 'I've always been really sceptical but I know what I saw. It was absolutely massive, shaped like a disc with a dome on the top and the bottom and about 50 windows in it.'

Kay, 28, was alerted to the greyish-white flying saucer by her boyfriend Dave Hammond, 29, at 8.45pm on Friday.

Dave tried to video the object, which appeared to be flying over the Golden Valley, but it shot off before it could be filmed.

Kay said: 'When I saw it I was shocked but not frightened. I know it sounds really silly but there's no doubt in my mind what it was.'

Robin Cole, head of investigations for Cheltenham-based UFO group Circular Forum, said: 'It was extremely foggy on Friday night so any lights from a craft could distort its shape.'

'These are just the sort of sightings we're after. We would love to have a chat with Kay.'

Anyone who thinks they saw the object should contact Mr Cole on 0973 778906.



Dave Hammond and Kay Landon with children Madison and Hannah